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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY

VOL 18 No. 828— TUESDAY JUNE 3, 1997 • REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST — PUBLICATION No NBQ5726 $2.50

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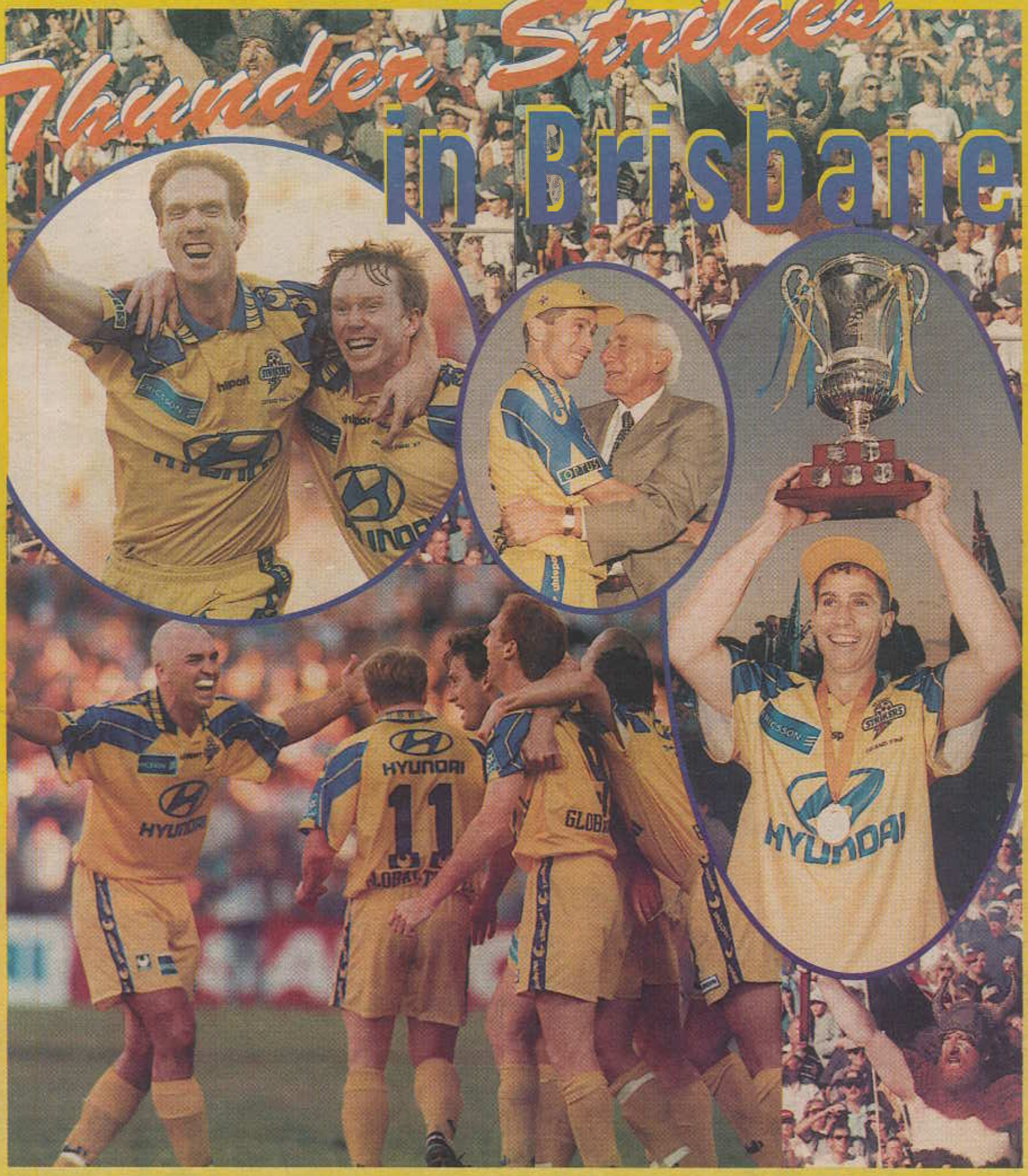

A year in the life of ...

By BOB BROOKS

The beginning of the second year of a tenure is a good time to reflect on the first twelve months. What an exciting 52 weeks this has been.

The highlight had to be Australia's 3-1 victory over Hungary in Budapest., particularly the third goal from the raiding Kevin Muscat. He took the ball right to the goal-line, beat a challenger and looped a ball over the defence to the far post with pin point precision.

Aurelio Vidmar started a phenomenal sprint from the edge of the penalty area as the Hungarian defender was beaten. Vidmar made perfect contact with his head, less than a metre out with no-one to challenge him for a world class goal. If Brazil or England had engineered it, the sports programs would have been on to it with great alacrity. Thanks SBS for bringing the game in 'live'.

Of course, this would not have been possible without the visionary appointment of Terry Venables (Oz Tel) to succeed Eddie Thompson. This was brought about by the much travelled David Hill in London last October, and announced to an amazed, and slightly envious, British press.

FIFA allowed the formation of Oceania as a Confederation to go ahead with an overwhelming vote in favour. In fact, only Hill voted against it.

Melbourne Knights won the 1995/96 Ericsson Cup Grand Final for a second successive season, and Collingwood and Perth entered the national league for the first time. One to be a roaring success and the other to be like a comet across the sky. Collingwood arrived with a bang and disappeared, seemingly, in a puff of dust. They will forever have their name inscribed in the annals of soccer in Australia, as they won the National Soccer League Cup.

Perth on the other hand, went from strength to strength. 'The Glory' generated excitement, passion and were soon playing to capacity crowds. They were watched by over 150,000 at their Perth Oval home. The Glory took more than 1 million dollars through the gate and were given a television show on commercial television.

Australia went to the Olympic Games Football tournament after swamping Canada 5-0 in Sydney, but consequently failed in the USA.

The logo debate erupted onto radio, television and into newspapers. Many words crossed airwaves but it was eventually settled amicably. All publicity is good publicity some say.

UTS Olympic moved its home ground to Belmore Oval and made attempts to join with Sydney Bulldogs Rugby League Club. A brave move forward.

Newcastle Breakers signed up a major sports company as their sponsor — Topper — whose headquarters are in Argentina. Not only did they agree to the Breakers deal, but agreed to be the major sponsor for the Bill Turner Cup for school under-15 teams.

Eddie Thompson took up a position in Japan with Hiroshima Sanfrecce. He was joined by the former Australian Women's coach, Tom Sermanni.

In March the Olympic Women's champion, USA, visited Australia for three games. The first contest was taken to Bathurst, a smart move in these days of extending the coverage of the game to regional areas. The game in Canberra was played before a new record crowd for Women's soccer when the visitors went away with a 3-0 win.

Australia's men qualified for the lucrative Confederation's Cup (to be held in December this year in Saudi Arabia) by beating Tahiti 6-0 in Papeete and 7-0 in Canberra.

Paul Wade called it a day both at international level and in club football. Wade has been a model professional in every sense of the word.

Australia played a four nations tournament in January with Norway, South Korea and New Zealand, coming away with three victories. Norway are still in the top 20 of the FIFA World Rankings.

Adamstown Rosebud, 107 years on the soccer field, succumbed to financial pressure and went into oblivion, thus NSWSF Super League was left with a lop-sided competition (a bye every week).

It was less of a surprise when Soccer Australia turned down the applications of Canberra Cosmos and Gippsland Falcons than, after some lobbying work, they were accepted back into the fold again.

Sydney United walked away with the home and away part of the Ericsson Cup, the Finals series were underway when the first 12 months closed with Brisbane earning their first ever Grand Final (but that's another, particularly joyous, narrative for the next annual critique from your Editor).

The World Game has something for everyone. If the current year is anything like the previous one, let it roll on!

PNG upset NZ in Moresby

By BOB BROOKS

Papua New Guinea upset an inexperienced New Zealand 1-0 in the first of the Oceania World Cup Group 2 qualifying matches in Port Moresby on Saturday.

Substitute striker Francis Moyap hit the winning goal late in the second half to give the unfancied PNG team the shock result.

The game was played in sweltering conditions before more than 5,000 fans at the Sir Hubert Murray Stadium.

New Zealand captain Rodger Gray was dropped for the game and, in a radical decision, new coach Joe McGrath gave his younger players an opportunity for what was always going to be a tough assignment.

The inexperience proved costly, with only new captain Michael McGarry having played a World Cup game.

Fiji is also in the group, with teams playing each other twice.

The winner of the group will play the winner of the other Oceania group containing Australia, Solomon Islands and Tahiti. The winner of that play-off takes on the fourth best team from Asia for a place in the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Group One matches commence on Wednesday June 11 at Parramatta Stadium, in Australia's second oldest city.

Australia play Solomon Islands in what should be a relatively easy assignment.

The action continues at the same stadium two days later with the hosts, Australia taking on Tahiti.

The 'return' legs, also at the same location, are on Tuesday June 17 and Thursday the 19th.

NORWAY STUNS WORLD CUP HOLDERS

In Oslo on Saturday, the normally magical Brazilians were made to look mere mortals as home side, Norway put four goals past them. Brazil managed two in reply.

This stunning victory by Norway comes only four months after Australia inflicted a 1-0 defeat on the Scandinavian visitors in Sydney.

In that match Robbie Hooker , Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovic kept Tor Andre Flo away from their goal. This same Norwegian bagged a pair and set up another against Brazil.

The reversal ends a 43 game winning run by the World Cup holders.

Tor Andre Flo (r) seen with Dan Eggan before the match between Australia and Norway in January 1997.

The article "'Appy as a 'ammer' in ABSW of May 27, 1997 was by Richard Kreider. The photograph of Stan Lazaridis in the article was kindly provided by Steve Bacon, official photographer of West Ham United.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 ..... Editorial
3 ..... The Contenders report
4 ..... Ericsson Cup Awards Night
5, 6 ..... Letters to the Editor
7 ..... Northern NSW. Illawarra. WA
8, 9 ..... Soccer NSW
10 ..... Ericsson Cup Grand Final Minute by Minute
11 ..... ACT Soccer
12, 13 ..... Grand Final Colour Souvenir
14, 15 ..... Victoria Soccer
16 ..... Around the Globe results
17 ..... European Cup Final
18 ..... Women's Writes
19 ..... South Australia Soccer
20 ..... South America
21 ..... Britain 1920-21
22 ..... UK News with Micky Brock
23 ..... News in Brief. FA Cup Tour

FRONT: Grand Final Tribute to Brisbane Strikers
BACK: Pacific Soccer Camps

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AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
7-9 Garners Avenue, Marrickville 2204. Tel (02) 9560-3900. Fax (02) 9564-1224 • 9550-9332
Published every Tuesday by FL Press Pty Ltd. 7-9 Garners Ave Marrickville NSW 2204

DISTRIBUTION
NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd. 7 Garners Ave Marrickville NSW 2204. Tel: (02) 95603900
VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd. Unit 9, 405 Flemington Road, North Melbourne, 3051. Tel: (03) 9329-1636 Fax: (03) 9329-1342
QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper Campbell St, Bowen Hills 4006 Tel: (07) 252-6011
SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd. Waymouth St, Adelaide 5000 Tel: (08) 218-9329
WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth 6000 Tel: 328-4779

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Australia Gold 2 (A.Vidmar pen 57, Mori 66) — Australia Green 2 (Foster 63, Trajanovski 71)
Australia Gold: Kalac, Casserly, Ivanovic, Kulscar (De Amicis 46), M.Babic, Bingley, Lazaridis, Mori, Despotovski (Halpin 46), A.Vidmar, Tapai.
Australia Green: Bosnich (J.Petkovic 72), Hooker (Tiatto 46), Bernal, Tobin, Slater, Van Blerk, Trimboli, Enes, Zdrilic, Foster, Trajanovski.

Australia Gold

Zeljko Kalac: Didn't have an awful lot to do, beaten by Foster with the aid of a defelction and only slack marking allowed Trajanovski to score. Otherwise usual competent display — 7

Luke Casserly: Played in stopper position where he had the job on Zdrilic. Shaded on the night by the Sydney United striker and he may make way when the likes of Horvat return for the second game in Sydney.— 5

Milan Ivanovic: Classy showing from the Adelaide City veteran. Reading of the play in the first half was superb, repelled many attacks from Zdrilic, Trajanovski and Trimboli. — 8

George Kulscar: Disappointing in his defensive midfield role. Replaced by De Amicis at half time. — 4

Mark Babic: Trajanovski worked him hard but he came out of the duel on lebel terms although he nearly scored an own goal in the second half.— 6

Matthew Bingley: Gave the impression that he simply wasn't interested. Didn't get forward at all and wasn't as half as effective as he was during the Four Nations tournament. — 4

Ernie Tapai: Player of the match with a hand in both Gold goals.

Stan Lazaridis: Well beaten in the first half by his direct opponent Slater. Came back into the game in the second half with a couple of trademark mazy runs. — 5

Damian Mori: Clinically finished second goal for his team and was denied what looked to be a perfectly good goal later on. Had great tussle with old Adelaide City team mate Tobin. — 7

Bobby Despotovski: The Perth Glory striker tried hard but had very little that went his way. Replaced at half time by Halpin. — 4

Aurelio Vidmar: Looked desperately short of match practice. Didn't do an awful lot apart from convert the penalty for Gold's first goal. — 5

Ernie Tapai: Stand out player on the night. His work rate was terrific. Cleared one shot off the line and up the other end, had a hand in both Gold's goals. — 9

Fausto De Amicis: Came on half time for Kulscar and did some useful things condsidering he was playing out of position. — 6

Troy Halpin: Replaced Despotovski at half time. Had some chances to impress Venables but wasn't able to take them. — 5

Australia Green

Mark Bosnic: Beaten twice and was rarely tested before that. Talked to his defence well before making way for Petkovic in the 72nd minute. — 6

Robert Hooker: Played at sweeper for the first half before coming off for Tiatto. Did his job well enough in that period though. — 6

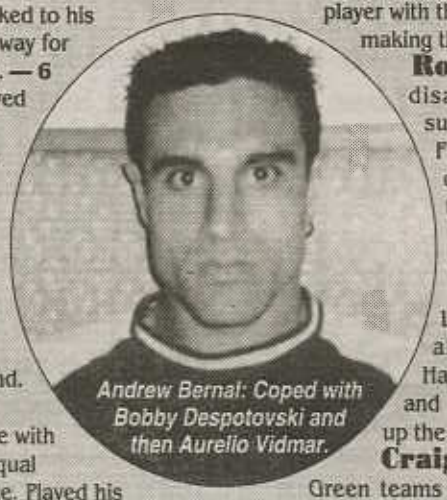
Andrew Bernal: Great game at stopper where he saw off Despotovski in the first half and then Vidmar when he pushed up front in the second. — 8

Alex Tobin: Fine battle with Mori where he finished on equal points with his old team mate. Played his usual safe game and his captaincy of the Green team suggests he is nearly a certainty for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers. — 7

Robbie Slater: His battle with Lazaridis was the highlight of the game. Was tremendous in the first half but faded as the game went on. Long and difficult season with Southampton saw to that. — 7

Jason Van Blerk: Easily had the better of Bingley but didn't have a stand out game himself. Set up Trajanovski's goal with a great long ball. Both he and Lazaridis have a real battle for the same position. — 6

Paul Trimboli: Played behind front two of Trajanovski and Zdrilic although on occasions he did swap with Trajanovski. Another good performance makes him the local player with the best chance of making the starting eleven. — 8


Andrew Bernal: Coped with Bobby Despotovski and then Aurelio Vidmar.

Robert Enes: Got over disappointment of being suspended for the Grand Final with a polished display in midfield in tandem with Foster. Was useful in helping out defence. — 7

David Zdrilic: Looked sharp up front alongside Trajanovski. Had a header off the line and an intelligent lay off set up the first goal for Foster. — 7

Craig Foster: Scored the Green teams first goal from Zdrilic's pass to further enhance his reputation as one of our best goalscoring midfielders. — 7

Kris Trajanovski: Scored the second equaliser for the Greens. Swapped with Trimboli in playing behind the front two in a ploy that both players handled comfortably. — 6

Jason Petkovic: Came on for Bosnich after the Gold's scored their second goal. Came out tentatively for a couple of crosses but did make one great save from Tapai. — 5

Danny Tiatto: Looked very dangerous when he came for Hooker at half time. His explosive pace exposed Gold's defence and pressured Babic into what was nearly an own goal — 6

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Major Awards ... TO SYDNEY UNITED

By BOB BROOKS

The 1997 Ericsson Cup Awards were presented to a packed Sydney Hilton Hotel on Saturday night. The event was broadcast live on Optus and was hosted by Les Murray and Robert Wheatley.

Sydney United's David Zdrilic was on hand to receive the leading scorer award, presented by Southampton and Socceroo star Robbie Slater.

The Johnnie Walker 'Coach of the Year' was that keen student of the game, Branko Culina. Presently he is in Malaysia with the Young Socceroos as they prepare for the World Under/20 Championships.

Joe Marston (r): In action for APIA at Wentworth Park in the 1950s, APIA were in the NSW First Division.

Kresimir Marusic: Players Player of the Year and Warren Medal winner.

Another award winner currently with the Young Socceroos was Kasey Wehrman, the 'Kid from Cloncurry' in outback Queensland. The Brisbane Strikers attacking midfielder took out the U/21 Player trophy to accompany his recent Grand Final medal.

In the goalkeeping stakes, Adelaide City's Jason Petkovic pipped his brother Michael for the top award.

All the Ericsson Cup participants voted in the Players' Player of the Year vote (called the Warren Medal), which went to Sydney United's silky skilled, attacking midfielder, Kresimir Marusic. He follows in the footsteps of such players as Frank Farina, Milan Ivanovic, Paul Trimboli and Mark Viduka.

Accepting the Home and Away Premiership trophy on behalf of Sydney United, former Liberal leader John Hewson quipped that he could never rid himself of the GST tag, however, instead of tax now it stood for ... 'Great Soccer Team'! Perth Glory received the Optus 'Fair Play' Award.

This is awarded to the team with the best disciplinary record or least number of yellow and red cards.

Amongst the whistlers, Grand Final ref Simon Micallef took out the top award.

The two winners of the National Youth League awards were Levant Osman from the VIS for the Southern Division, and Michael Cunico from the Northern Division. Cunico plays his Soccer with the AIS. Obviously these are two names for the future.

Congratulations must go the organisers for a very well presented and professional evening; indicative of the growing confidence and prestige of the our great National League, the Ericsson Cup.

Unique Award

Zoran Matic was called to the dais to formally receive the Johnnie Walker Cup. In their first, and last season, Collingwood Warriors won the trophy of the season before succumbing to problems of a financial nature and consequently folding.

The shortlived club's chequered existence will go down in the game's history — shades of Mooroolbark don't you think?

ERICSSON — Happy Sponsors

In their second year of sponsorship of the major competition in Australian Soccer, Ericsson are very pleased with their involvement, according to the national Managing Director, Darryl Chambers.

Mr Chambers was presenting the Ericsson Cup to Ian Brusasco and Frank Farina of Brisbane Strikers.

Brusasco's tears of joy, understandably shed after the stirring Grand Final win, had dried, yet he still spoke with emotion in paying tribute to his fellow directors, Clem Jones and Frank Speare.

Media Awards

A number of awards were made for media coverage of the Ericsson Cup. Amongst the winners were Mike Cockerill, of the Sydney Morning Herald, for best feature article.

The best report of the year went to Garry Legg of the Brisbane 'Courier Mail' for his Grand Final coverage.

Trevor Thompson, of ABC radio, was the recipient of the radio category, and Marconi player, Andy Harper, was awarded a prize for an article in 'Soccer Australia' magazine.

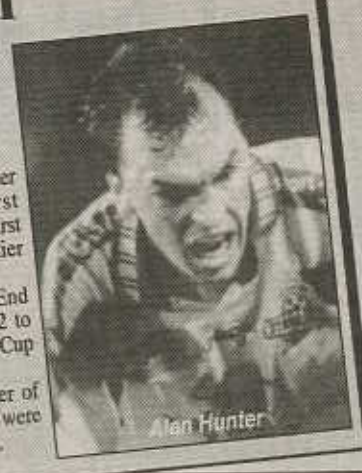
Marston Medal

The winner of the Marston Medal for best player in the Ericsson Cup Grand Final went to Brisbane Strikers stopper, Alan Hunter.

The Marston Medal is named after Joe Marston, who was the first Australian to play in the English First Division, now known as the Premier League.

He played for Preston North End and was in the side which lost 3-2 to West Bromwich Albion in the FA Cup Final of 1953/54.

Preston were a founder member of the Football League in 1888 and were the competition's first champions.



Alan Hunter

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Transformation in Queensland?

Dear Sir,

If the 1996/7 Ericsson Cup Grand Final goes down in history as the day that transformed Soccer in Queensland, then the efforts of Frank Farina coach, player and Socceroo will become folklore. Without denigrating the efforts of the Strikers players, officials, sponsors, fans and others, the impact of the Farina factor on Queensland has been extraordinary — if not amazing.

While Farina is one of the best players Oz Soccer has produced, he is not amongst the top echelon such as Joe Marston, John Watkiss, Alan Davidson, Ray Baartz et al. Nevertheless, as good as the above were none, of them, even collectively, made such an impact on such a large section of the Australian public as Farina.

Ironically, when Farina was at the peak of his national and club career, he received scant recognition in his home state. In fact, most of the few Queenslanders who were aware of him thought he was a 'Southern' soccer player made good.

In the twilight of his playing career he has become a catalyst for transforming Queensland Soccer from its backwater status in 100 years of existence. It 's hard to think of a higher honour a player could achieve.

To underline Farina's status in Queensland, the Queensland Rugby League has recruited him to help promote the State of Origin series! Could anybody ever believe that the day would come when rugby league would use a Soccer player to promote its game in Queensland. Now I really do believe in the "power of one"!!

The history of Soccer in Australia is like a flickering flame that never completely dies out but rarely burns brightly. On the 25/5/97 it was one of those all too rare occasions when Oz Soccer's star shone brightly if not brilliantly. Let's all hope it's a good omen for the future — only time will tell.

R. Melor
BONDI, NSW

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
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Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Disillusioned Queensland supporter

Dear Sir,

What a joke, Wayne Knipe dropped from the Young Socceroo squad. Where is the justice? This is one of the most blatantly unfair decisions I have seen in Australian Soccer. This young man has been playing in one of the top sides in the National League, the Strikers (now the champions), and has scored goals regularly. Where have many of the other players been playing? In Youth Leagues that's where. For example, forward Daniel Allsopp couldn't make the South Melbourne squad. What a message to young players in Queensland. He is good enough for Farina but not good enough for Scheinflug.

He (Scheinflug) has had more chances than Mark Taylor — when does the new breed of coaches get a go. Wayne Knipe has earned his chance.

J.Harvey
Zillmere, Qld.

Editors Note: You have a point. Wayne Knipe's turn will come providing he keeps up his rate of progress.. Some of the greatest players in the world have used such early disappointment to spur them on to greater things.

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(see page 2 for details)

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Overseas club's addresses request

Dear Sir,

My sons have noticed that you sometimes put addresses of overseas clubs in ABSW. If clubs, Manchester United, Leeds United, Chelsea, Blackburn Rovers, Liverpoool, Glasgow Rangers, and the address of the American Major League Soccer Association.

Any of the above information you can supply will be much appreciated.

P. Turner,
Nth Rockhampton, Qld

P.S. We enjoy your magazine, and look forward to it each week.

Editors Note: Delighted ABSW brings all of you pleasure. Thanks to Micky Brock, here are the addresses of the British clubs , and Soccer Australia provided us with the MLS one.

• Chelsea Football Club, Stamford Bridge, London SW6-1HS. • Blackburn Rovers, Ewood Park, Blackburn, Lancs BB2-4JF. • Leeds United, Elland Road, Leeds, Yorks LS11-OES. Liverpool, Anfield Road, Liverpool L4-OTM. Manchester United, Sir Matt Busby Way, Old Trafford, Manchester M16-ORA. • Glasgow Rangers, Ibrox Stadium, Edminston Drive, Glasgow, Scotland G51-ZXD. • USA Major League Soccer, US Soccer House, 1801-1811 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago Ill 60616.

Brazilian Old Boys Team (in two parts): These blokes were the winners of the Fiji tournament in 1995.

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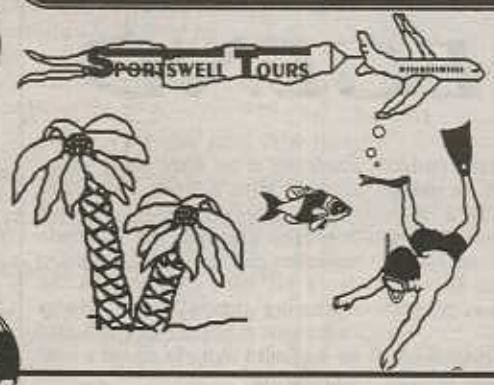

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What a great spectacle

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to Frank Farina and his Brisbane Strikers on winning the Ericsson Cup Grand Final at Suncorp Stadium.

They were hungry for victory and their team effort was brilliant in front of a record club Soccer crowd of 40,446 with goals from Farina and Brown.

Sydney United were never allowed to settle down and their two front strikers were never in the game.

What a great spectacle it was with a very vocal Queensland crowd cheering every move by the Strikers. Furthermore there were no ethnic flags, no idiots throwing flares on to the field or groups of opposing fans showing hatred towards each other, that have no place here in Australia. If they wish to fight each other I suggest they return to those countries that they still call home.

Our favourite football code was also a great winner and proves once and for all that it does not need two ethnic based clubs to ensure a big Grand Final crowd.

Well done Brisbane, may your success go on for many years.

D Porter
Parramatta, NSW

Conflict brought to a head

Dear Sir,

So the inevitable conflict between David Hill and Soccer's most proud 'ethnic' clubs over the right of participation in Australia's national league has been brought to a head.

Perhaps this conflict has come years earlier than it may have had to. However the events of Sunday May 18 at Parramatta Stadium, rightly or wrongly, has put back many of the gains Soccer had made over the last two years. Soccer Australia reacted promptly and rightfully as perhaps thousands of dollars in sponsorship, a lucrative commercial TV contract and spectator support were at stake here.

Once again, Sydney United and South Melbourne brought Croatian and Greek nationalism into a game of Australian Soccer. The colour of the final was great, the red flame of the flairs, people draped in Croatian and Greek flags, supporters shouting "Hellas', "Croatia", "Olympic", "Macedonia", — but where was I supposed to be?

Never, never, never is there a chance of seeing me put on red in support of the Pumas, or of any other Sydney Ericsson Cup team. I felt unwanted, unrepresented and intimidated and that's the reason there were 8,000 supporters there that weekend and not 85,000. While I admit the fracas after the game could hardly be termed a riot, what went on in the stands was a pre planned nationalistic strike attempting to consolidate the 'ethnic' power base of the game. This is the type of support I thought had gone. This year 150,000 Perth Glory fans believed it had gone. 40,000 Brisbane fans on Grand Final day believed it had gone.

Once again the initial reaction was to blame the police. Their only crime was to try and protect Stadium property such as the pitch from being destroyed.

Mike Cockerill of the Sydney Morning Herald claimed it was the lack of segregation of the fans that really should be blamed. My response is, why should fans ever need to be segregated for an Australian sporting event? For Soccer Australia, expulsion is the only threat left. Can either club guarantee that such an act won't happen again — of course they can't. Maybe these clubs can reform and come back in a few years. Otherwise perhaps it is more appropriate these clubs operate out of state leagues, where, valuable junior programs will be retained but not at the expense of the game's reputation.

While the irony is that South's look like being expelled due to the actions of rival fans (since most supporters dressed in blue that day were actually Olympic supporters), South's have had three strikes this year, firstly with the Angelo Costanzo bus stoning, the Clarendon St riot and now this. Surely it is a case of three strikes and you're out. For United supporters, you can blame the police, blame Soccer Australia or whoever but it is you who have killed your club.

Name not for publication,
Dulwich Hill, NSW.

Rise and fall on business acumen

Dear Sir,

With QLD and WA finally getting the sleeping giant to grunt, how do we stop NSW, Vic and SA continually feeding him sleeping pills?

At least the ethnic issue is finally proved, and given time, finished.

I see the next major problem for the game being financial viability.

In nearly had an apopletic fit when Zeljko Kalac said that $100,000 would be a fair salary in Australia. "Bloody Hell", I brought up my family on $20,000 per/annum net and that was without any job security (which few people get nowadays).

I hope more clubs are allowed in the league and provided they comply with the strict criteria, including other clubs' travel costs, and a national and regional balance, be allowed to rise or fall on their business acumen.

C Hill
Atherton, QLD

Cancer in the terraces

Dear Sir,

I have been moved to write the following article by some of the recent events occurring, concerning the club I support. the South Melbourne Lakers Soccer Club (SMLSC) has a proud history of being a leading soccer outfit in Australia. The clubs image has been tarnished severely due to recent disgraceful incidents:

- Vandalism along Claredon Street, South Melbourne
- Rock throwing at the bus injuring player Costanzo (Adelaide)
- Brawling at the Sydney United Semi final encounter.

the time has come for the administration to take clear steps in preventing the hooligan element present at their games from dishonouring the name of Soccer club further.

Ir is no longer adequate to claim the club is doing all it can to control the situation, when clearly the steps taken have been futile. As a member of the club I have been mortified with these circumstances and no longer feel comfortable attending games and supporting a club that can be accused of using band aid solutions and at worse, turns a blind eye hoping this predicament will go away.

This problem will not go away by externalising blame and pretending to be pro active in finding a resolution. The wider public is not naive to accept the clubs well rehearsed politically correct answers. At present the club risks being implicated as an accomplice to this sort of behaviour by its failure to do everything at its disposal. The issue needs to be addressed by taking surer steps to eradicate these people from soccer's terraces.

The element I am referring to is well known to club officials and they have shown themselves to be unfit to be part of the soccer community. The administration must leave no stone unturned to eradicate this huge dilemma. to abolish this nuisance element, I offer the following suggestions:

- Video surveillance
- Disband the group from congregating together with security personal and police presence
- Police surveillance via video for correct identification and prosecution.

At present the administration can be accused of having a laissez faire attitude to this issue. surely the amount of damage done to the SMLSC and Soccer in general in this country warrants exceptional measures. The longer we tolerate these set of circumstances, the more we deserve to be relegated to the minnows of sport in Australia. After all who needs supporters like this. To use an Australian term "Lets get fair dinkum".

N Hatzoglou
Korweinguboora, VIC

Disgusting and disgraceful behaviour

(The match took place on April 28, 1997, this letter was copied to ABSW, originally written to Peter Desira at the Herald Sun).

Dear Sir,

I have never in all my sporting days seen such a disgusting and disgraceful display of behaviour, by any team, in any code of sport. Heidelberg United should be totally banned from ever competing in premier league Soccer again, their behaviour was abhorrent and lacked any sportsmanship qualities from the time they took the field. Anyone watching could plainly see that there was going to be trouble, Heidelberg were breathing fire and as for their onfield language, well, I do not care to repeat any of it.

This season I have followed my local club, Bulleen and have been pleased to see the turnaround in the players and the club under the guidance of coach Michael Urukalo. What he has done with those players is nothing short of brilliant! I am not much of a Soccer buff but I can see the elements of good coaching technique when I see it. He has total respect from every single one of his boys. This is obvious by the way they follow his direction.

I chose to take my son to the above match to broaden his outlook on other sports, but what a disaster! Firstly, the lighting flickered several times, threatening to throw the ground into darkness, there was no security staff patrolling the fence as at other matches, there was only one person staffing the gates and basically the whole evening was a joke.

The game had not even been underway five minutes when the referee had to issue his first warning to a Heidelberg United player for abusive language. From then on it was on for one and all. Bulleen tried to avoid any confrontations that Heidelberg tried to induce. The incident involving Tom Sonsini was nothing short of disgusting and a sad reflection on a once successful Heidelberg club. When he was knocked out it took three minutes before anyone called for medical help for him and another five to seven minutes before they could locate a stretcher. Thank goodness his condition wasn't critical.

The comments from Heidelberg's president that they were not aware there were any scuffles is a joke, does he keep his eyes shut? Every damn person in the stadium knew exactly what happened. How you expect to encourage youngsters to be involved in Soccer is beyond me, my son told me he felt safer competing in the martial arts arena than watching a Soccer game, let alone ever playing in one.

While all the scuffles were going on, coach Urukalo was watching quietly from the sidelines being careful not to get involved. An intelligent tactic from a knowledgable coach, wouldn't you say?

P Desira,
Southbank QLD.

FRANKIE'S A LEGEND

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to Frank Farina and his Brisbane Strikers on taking out the Ericsson Cup for 1997.

In doing so the Strikers did big things not only for Brisbane Soccer but for Australian Soccer. The very well behaved and huge crowd enjoyed a day of quality football.

Farina — the man is a magician. Is there nothing this man cannot do once he sets his mind to it? He is a great ambassador for the game, and will no doubt lead our national team as coach in the not to distant future.

One of the younger players in the side we will hopefully see more of in the new season is the talented REECE TOLLENEARE.

Reece has the ability to put away goals with great monotony, and is surely one of the finest young talents of Australian Soccer. This quiet young achiever has many fans scattered amongst the Brisbane supporters and fans who are hoping to see a lot more of Reece in the upcoming season. When he was called upon to produce the goods (and he responded well), he played a wide midfield role.

AGAIN — WELL DONE STRIKERS, WE'RE PROUD OF YOU

Mrs J Hunter
STAFFORD QLD

Editor's note: We couldn't have said it better ourselves!

The picture of multi-culturalism

Dear Sir,

The Grand Final at Lang Park exhibited the Australian, indigenous, Italian, Greek, Chinese, Vietnamese, Dutch and many other nationalities joined in support for one team, the Brisbane Strikers.

The heritage of the World Game was shown in the varied shirts worn by many supporters, Ajax, Barcelona, Juventus, Newcastle, Manchester United, Rangers and Celtic alongside the Strikers strips.

Congratulations to the Strikers and may their success lead to a great future for the NSL and Soccer in Australia and may the other regional success stories such as Perth Glory show the way to the football clubs in Sydney and Melbourne.

Also thanks to Sydney United for being part of a great Grand Final.

B O'Connor,
Sunnybank Hills, QLD.

OUT OF THE DARK AGES

Dear Sir,

Well here we have another couple of 'Hill' bashers (ABSW 27/5/97). Let's give the man some credit, he deserves it thoroughly. He is trying to get this great game of ours, out of the dark ages and into the mainstream of Australian life. This is the only way forward for the game here, you won't get 40,446 Croats or Greeks to a Soccer game in Sydney or Melbourne, but given the chance we can all (ie. Australians of all nationalities) go to the game in those numbers and enjoy ourselves.

To this end J. Karanikas (ABSW 27/5/97), I couldn't care if there was no security at soccer matches, you still do not riot, and have people stomping on police officers on the middle of prime time news if you want this game accepted. Perhaps you really don't want it accepted and wish to retain it in its pre-Hill pathetic, narrow form so as the sport could continue in its facade of pretending to be Croatia v Italy or whatever!

I coach an Under 14/1 team in Sydney, and was amazed when I took the them to attend a 'Sydney United' game that the real team chant was in fact 'Croatia'. What we really need in Sydney is a club where it does not matter whether you are Croatian, German, Italian, English or whatever form of Australian you are. You just go because it is a football club that you are supporting, your local Sydney club, just like Perth and Brisbane. Why should our two biggest cities be missing out on what two of our smaller cities are relishing in? Why should I have to explain to a group of 13 year olds, at a Sydney United game why the crowd are chanting for some strife-torn old European country that most of them have never even seen on a map?

As regards the comments of Mario Pospishi, the true meaning of his remarks is the marvellous multi-cultural state of Australia. We are in a fantastic position where the players he mentions, but also players such as Arnold, Slater, Kewell, Moore can be added, to truly give us the chance of a unique and possibly, as per Olympic and Youth results, world-beating style of football. However, we should revel in that multi-cultural state, not the single state of ethnic clubs. Ever wondered why Adelaide, South Melbourne, Marconi etc have multi-cultural names of all nationalities in their line-ups but Melbourne Knights and Sydney United have almost exclusively — ic's and — ski's?

For my money, David Hill is the greatest thing to happen to Australian Soccer ever. Let me also include Neville Wran, George Negus and John Hewson along with Mr Hill. We needed him desperately, and his innovations such as bringing the game to the mainstream, appointing Terry Venables and attempting to make the game attractive to all Australians, which are already bearing fruit.

Good on you David, don't be swayed or discouraged by the narrow views of the vested interests. Keep doing the right thing by ALL Australians.

P Turnbull,
Sydney, NSW.

ABSW grabs Cosmo reader!

Dear Sir,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on a great newspaper. While I usually have my head stuck in a Cleo/Cosmopolitan every Tuesday, I'm grabbing the ABSW from my father.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate Brisbane Strikers on their win. Unfortunately it wasn't to be Sydney United's day. Queensland as a whole had a phenomenal day, but I need to ask, what will the crowds be like in Brisbane for the new season? I'd say just as abysmal as this seaon.

I'd also love to know why R.Melor's comments are printed on a regular basis? I both agree and disagree with some of his opinions but because of the limited space for 'Letters to the Editor', don't you think we could enjoy hearing comments by others?

Ms S Vidovic
O'MALLEY ACT

***Editors note:** We publish most of the letters we receive. A variety of letter writers is always welcome.*

Northern NSW

NNSW Age Championships on the weekend

By DANE SKAFTE

Northern NSW Soccer Federation will conduct the 1997 "Greater State Championships" over the June long weekend on the 7th, 8th and 9th. The Championships will be held in a variety of venues.

The Under 16 Boy's Championships, Topper Breakers Cup, being hosted by Newcastle/Port Stephens Association at Boomerang Park, Raymond Terrace, will showcase the young talent of Northern NSW to the coaching staff of Topper Breakers.

Breakers Media Liaison Officer, Shane Johnson, said they were very pleased to be part of the NNSW SF Greater State Championships with the Topper Breakers Cup.

"Our Senior Coach John Kosmina, Youth Coach Greg Smith, along with players Clayton Zane and Troy Halpin will be in attendance over the weekend," he said.

"The Under-16 Championships allows us the opportunity to have a good look at the youth of Northern NSW at the one venue.

"Although we have quality talent scouts in country NSW, this weekend will allow John (Kosmina) and Greg (Smith) the chance to look at all players first hand."

☆ ☆ ☆

Northern NSW convincingly won the annual Steel City challenge at Blacksmiths Oval last week, with a four nil win over Illawarra.

Northern goalkeeper, Craig Shanko, set the home team on their way to victory when he made two outstanding saves in the first 15 minutes of the game.

A hat-trick of goals to Karl Freeman and a single to youngster Micky Williams put the match out of Illawarra's grasp and allowed them to retain the trophy won 3-2 last year.

Craig Shanko's two saves early in the first half really woke the team up according to NNSW Operations Manager, Alan Nisbet.

"Michael Williams was brilliant up front as was David Lowe in the middle and Neil Owens at the back."

"It was great to see the sun come out after all the rain and get the game on the park," Nisbet said.

NNSW went to the half-time break leading 1-0 after Freeman scored in the 30th minute off a left field cross from Neville Smith, that was back heeled by Lowe to Freeman.

Freeman picked up a second 11 minutes into the second half and scored his third in the final 15 minutes. Williams came on in the second half and made it 4-0 with four minutes left on the clock.

☆ ☆ ☆

Northern New South Wales defender Bridgette Starr, touring the USA with the Matildas, has sustained a grade one medial ligament strain and has been flown home. She will be out of the game for one month, according to NNSW Women's Coach, Mark Jones.

"Bridgette will be dearly missed because of her knowledge of the game at top level. She was named Player of the Tournament last year in the USA," Jones said.

Craig Shanko: Set the tone for a win with two fine second half saves.

1997 Greater State Championships:

Age	Host Assoc.	Venue	Town	Contact	Phone
BOY					
11 yrs	Manning	Tuncurry Fields	Tuncurry	Jenny Hayes	(066) 502 301
12 yrs	New England	Wicklow Soccer Fields	Armidale	Colin Gadd	(067) 714 278
13 yrs	Holiday Coast	International Sp. Stadium	Coffs Harbour	Craig Riley	(018) 097 720
14 yrs	Macquarie	Croudace Bay Complex	Valentine	Alan Gilmour	(049) 433 967
15 yrs	Hunter Valley	Rutherford Soccer Club	Ruther Ford	Phylis Avery	(049) 904 354
16 yrs	N'castle Pt Stephens	Boomerang Park	Raymond Terrace	Evelyn Stonham	(049) 332 770
WOMEN					
16/19	Soccer Far North Coast	Richmond Rovers Soccer Club	Lismore	Julie Clifford	(065) 215 593
12/14	Macquarie	Warners Bay Soccer Club	Warners Bay	Alan Gilmour	(049) 433 967

W'gong Olympic stop Northern

By PHIL MURPHY

A spectacular goal by midfielder George Antoniou was the spark for Wollongong Olympic to beat Northern United 3-1 in the ISA feature match at Brandon Park on Sunday.

It was 1-1 when Antoniou scored a gem from 30m, giving Northern goalkeeper Andrew Thompson no chance. Northern's goal was scored by defender Matt Tooley, a fine long-range effort. It was 1-1 when Leon Alexiou scored from close range.

After Antoniou's fine effort, it was Alexiou who chased a ball the Northern defence had given up on to set up number three for replacement Peter Zorbas.

Olympic coach John Fleming said after the game he had been unhappy with his players for their first-half effort.

They were a different team after the break," he said.

☆ ☆ ☆

Lysaghts have been "given the weekend off" by the ISA to prepare for tomorrow week's Waratah Cup tie against State super league side Macarthur at Ball's Paddock.

Lysaghts were to have played Balgownie in a premier league match on the Monday afternoon.

ISA president Norm Flanagan said his board are keen to help Lysaghts in any way they can.

"We want them to have every chance of pulling off an upset," Flanagan said.

"Hopefully we will be able to promote the game in the Wollongong media and get a good crowd along.

"Lysaghts have five of six players in our Illawarra representative teams to play ACT on Saturday afternoon.

"It wouldn't have been fair to ask them to play on Monday and take on Macarthur on Wednesday."

Lysaghts looked capable of an upset on Friday night when they played a league game against Cringila.

They won 5-0 and scored four of the goals in a very impressive first half.

Striker Anthony Guido grabbed two goals in the space of a minute, then Steve Krishna made it 3-0 before a great goal from Paul Harries.

The only goal of the second half was scored in the 85th minute by John Skalij.

After scoring five goals in two games, Guido has been called into the Illawarra side to meet ACT on Saturday.

☆ ☆ ☆

Plenty of drama at Ball's Paddock on Saturday afternoon.

Bulli edged Dapto out 2-1 but Dapto will submit a report to the ISA on referee Tony Hart's handling of the game.

Dapto coach Stuart Beedie said he had been disgusted with Hart's performance.

Beedie said Bulli midfielder should have been sent off for striking one of his players in the face.

Later in the game, young Dapto defender Brett Fleming was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Baker (penalty) and fullback Rob Berni scored Bulli's goals and Matt Borg replied for Dapto.

Bulli are still on top of the league but coach Peter Beggs said after the game he though they were ordinary in a scoreless first half.

☆ ☆ ☆

West-Figtree almost collected their first point of the season at Clunas Oval on Saturday.

They were level 1-1 with Wollongong White Eagles when the Eagles grabbed a very late winner.

Goran Trajceski and Danny Petkovic scored for the Eagles and Stuart Vickers replied for Figtree.

At Judy Masters Oval, Fernhill got the points beating Balgownie 1-0 with a goal from Neil Carpenter.

Port Kembla were missing four key players but beat Coniston 1-0 at Kelly Park.

Striker Justin Roberts headed in a second-half goal to inflict Coniston's fourth successive defeat.

BOOST TO WA GOALIE TALENT BANK

Western Australia's remarkable reputation for producing quality goalkeepers maintained momentum with the news that 16 year old Ian Martin of the Joondalup Club has been offered a two year trial with English Premier League giants Newcastle United.

Martin, who had turned down a place with the WA Schoolboys team that are taking part in the August national championships, will jet out of Perth with his elated parents, Will and Margaret, to England in the last week of June, where he begins receiving his coaching from former star keeper, Peter 'the cat' Bonetti.

If all goes well, Martin could well be on his way towards following in the footsteps of quality WA goalies like Robbie Zabica, Jason and Michael Petkovic, Anthony Franken, Vince Matassa, Tom Maras and Andrew Petterson.

The former Sorrento youngster, who lives just a goal-kick away from the family of West Ham United's Chris Coyne in the suburb of Kingsley, is already well travelled having participated in the Irish Milk Cup competition in 1995 and the Singapore Lions Cup the following year. He has also had trials at Darlington and Tottenham Hotspur (with Pat Jennings), and last year he represented Northern Ireland under-16 squad in 4-1 victories against Lithuania and Republic of Ireland.

After the Milk Cup, he was fortunate enough to catch the 1995 Charity Cup at Wembley between Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United where he met Kenny Dalglish and Socceroo Robbie Slater after the game.

Ian Martin (r) shaking hands with Southampton and Australia midfielder Robbie Slater.

SOCCER

ABSW is delighted to offer Sydney readers tickets, courtesy of Soccer Australia, for the Australia Gold versus Green game.

Kick off is 7.30pm at **Parramatta Stadium**. The game is preceded by the **National Youth League Grand Final** at 5pm.

The teams taking part are **Sydney United** and **Melbourne Knights**.

You may collect your tickets between 8.30am and 5.30pm from our Marrickville office at 7-9 Garners Avenue.

Each caller is restricted to a maximum of 2 adult and 4 children's tickets.

***Please phone first for availability*: 9560 3900**

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NSW Soccer Federation

SUPER LEAGUE
ROUND 13

	1st	U/21	U/18
Blacktown City v Bankstown City Lions	1-2	3-1	6-1
Macarthur Rams v Central Coast	1-3	1-4	2-1
Canterbury Berries v Sutherland Sharks	1-1	3-5	0-1
Sydney United v St George Saints	0-1	1-1	1-1
Leichhardt Tigers v Parramatta Eagles	0-0	2-3	0-4

ROUND 11

	1st	2nd
Canterbury Berries v P'matta Eagles	2-4	0-3

ROUND 12

S'land Sharks v B'rigg White Eagles	0-4	0-1

First Grade

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	12	7	4	1	24	8	25
Leichhardt Tigers	12	6	2	4	13	10	20
Bonnyrigg WE	11	6	1	4	23	11	19
Bankstown City	12	5	3	4	20	18	18
Blacktown City	11	5	2	4	17	13	17
Macarthur Rams	10	5	1	4	12	11	16
Central Coast	12	4	3	5	16	16	15
Canterbury Berries	11	3	5	3	11	20	14
St George	12	2	5	5	12	23	11
Sutherland Sharks	12	2	4	6	13	18	10
Sydney United	11	2	2	7	8	21	7

DIVISION ONE
ROUND 20

	1st	U/21	U/18
West Wanderers v Bathurst '75	0-7	2-0	1-2
Hurstville City Minotaurs v Penrith Panthers	0-1	4-1	1-2
Auburn United v Ryde City	0-3	2-1	0-1
Belmore Hercules v Greystanes	4-0	5-2	3-0
Mt Pritchard v Rockdale City Suns	4-0	4-2	0-2
Hills United v Illawarra Lions	3-1	10-1	6-1
Eastern Suburbs v Warringah Dolphins	2-1	2-2	2-2
Stanmore Hawks v Fairfield Bulls	2-1	0-2	4-3

First Grade

Hurstville City Minotaurs 49, Bathurst '75 43, Ryde City 41, Stanmore Hawks 37, Eastern Suburbs 33, Rockdale City Suns 31, Mt Pritchard 31, Hills United 29, Belmore Hercules 27, Fairfield Bulls 27, Penrith Panthers 25, Auburn United 24, Greystanes 14, Illawarra Lions 12, Warringah Dolphins 10, West Wanderers 8.

DIVISION TWO
ROUND 14

	1st	U/21	U/18
Alexander Warriors v AC United	1-5	0-7	0-4
Hurstville ZSC v Liverpool City	2-0	2-1	0-1
Mt Druitt Town Rangers v Moorebank Sports	0-0	3-4	0-2
Gladesville United v Parramatta City	3-1	2-1	1-3
University of NSW v Dulwich Hill	3-3	2-0	0-1
Concord Juniors v Sydney District	0-1	1-2	1-1
Hurstville ZSC v Gladesville United	2-4	2-3	1-4

First Grade

Uni of NSW 25, Dulwich Hill 24, Moorebank Sports 24, Mt Druitt Town 22, AC United 21, Sydney District 21, Gladesville United 21, Hurstville ZSC 19, Liverpool City 17, Concord Juniors 14, Parramatta City 11, Alexander Warriors 8.

DIVISION THREE
ROUND 11

	1st	2nd
Glebe Wanderers v White City	4-1	1-0
The Wanderers v Hawkesbury City	2-0	3-3
Arncliffe Scots v Granville Greenisland	0-2	2-2
Prospect United v Colo Colo	2-1	2-0
Hakoah v Trasandinos	P/P	P/P
St Johns Park v Prairiewood United	3-4	2-1

DIVISION THREE
First Grade

Glebe Wanderers 26, The Wanderers 24, Granville Greenisland 22, Arncliffe Scots 19, Hakoah 18, Colo Colo 18, Hawkesbury City 14, Trasandinos 11, Prospect United 11, White City 7, St Johns Park 7, Prairiewood United 6.

DIVISION FOUR
ROUND 13

	1st	2nd
Earlwood Hermes v Maroubra United	0-1	1-3
Springwood v Lithgow Workmen	1-3	1-0
Sydney University v CSI Schofields	3-0	0-1
Mascot Kings v Balmain	1-3	9-1
United Eagles v Fairfield Kings	2-2	5-2
Fraser Park v Marrickville	1-6	2-0
Angels Liverpool United v St Josephs	2-4	0-0
Earlwood Hermes v Fraser Park	0-3	3-4
CSI Schofield v Fairfield Kings		3-0

DIVISION FOUR
First Grade

Fraser Park 34, Maroubra United 32, Sydney University 31, Marrickville 28, CSI Schofields 22, Earlwood Hermes 21, Mascot Kings 17, United Eagles 17, Balmain 16, St Josephs 14, Lithgow Workmen 10, Springwood 9, Fairfield Kings 3, Angels Liverpool United 0.

DIVISION FIVE
ROUND 13

	1st	2nd
Kosciusko v Holy Cross	3-7	P/P
Nepean District v Sporting SCC	0-0	4-2
Fairfield Eagles v Blacktown Premier	0-0	0-2
Bossy v AC Sydney	3-0	0-1
Camden Tigers v Canterbury Bullets	3-1	7-1
Homenetmen v Auburn Star	1-1	2-4
AVA United v Racing	1-1	0-1

DIVISION FIVE
First Grade

Camden Tigers 24, Bossy 24, Holy Cross College 24, Nepean District 22, Blacktown Premier 20, AC Sydney 18, Homenetmen 18, Sporting SCC 14, Kosciusko 13, Canterbury Bullets 13, Racing 13, Fairfield Eagles 12, Auburn Star 12, AVA United 4.

WOMENS
DIVISION ONE
ROUND 12

	1st	2nd
Marconi v Gladesville Ravens	5-0	3-0
NSW Institute/Academy v NNSW Institute Academy	2-0	3-0
		(win by forfeit)
UWS Macarthur v Macquarie District	1-2	3-0
Moorebank Sports v Eastern Suburbs	3-1	4-0
Penrith Panthers v Sydney United	0-6	0-6

DIVISION ONE
First Grade

NSW Inst/Academy 26, Sydney United 24, Marconi 23, NNSW Inst/Academy 20, UWS Macarthur 14, Sutherland Shire 12, Eastern Suburbs 10, Penrith Panthers 9, Macquarie District 6, Gladesville Raven 6, Moorebank Sports 6.

DIVISION TWO
ROUND 12

Macarthur v Gladesville Ravens	3-0
Bathurst City v St George Association	0-0
Shoalhaven Association v Eastern Suburbs	4-3
Roselands v Wollongong City	5-3
St George v Gladesville Ravens	1-2

TOP OF THE TABLE

FIRST DIVISION

Saturday June 7 — Round 21

Hurstville City Minotaurs v Bathurst '75 — Arlington Oval, 3pm
Auburn United v Belmore Hercules — Mona Park, 3pm
Greystanes v Eastern Suburbs — Hajduk Stadium, 3pm
Rockdale City Suns v Stanmore Hawks — R. Ilinden Sports Centre, 3pm
Illawarra Lions v Mt Pritchard — Ian McLellan Park, 3pm
Warringah Dolphins v Hills United — Cromer Park, 3pm
Fairfield Bulls v West Wanderers — Nineveh Field, 3pm
Penrith Panthers v Ryde City — Cook Park (St. Marys), 3pm

Monday June 9 — Round 22

West Wanderers v Rockdale City Suns — Hajduk Stadium, 3pm
Stanmore Hawks v Illawarra Lions — Arlington Oval, 3pm
Mt. Pritchard v Warringah Dolphins — Cook Park (Mt. Pritchard), 3pm
Hills United v Eastern Suburbs — Fred Caterson Reserve, 3pm
Hurstville City Minotaurs v Fairfield Bulls — Hurstville Oval, 3pm
Ryde City v Bathurst '75 — T. G. Millner field, 3pm
Belmore Hercules v Penrith Panthers — Blick Oval, 3pm
Auburn United v Greystanes — Mona Park, 3pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE 0055 22885 Max. call cost 75c/min. — IDS (Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

NSW Soccer Federation

FIRST DIVISION ROUNDUP

By PAUL GOODWIN

H'TVILLE MINOTAURS 0 PENRITH 1

Undoubtedly the shock of the weekend was Saturday's defeat by Minotaurs at the hands of Penrith Panthers on the hallowed turf of Hurstville Oval.

Despite a worthwhile share of possession and a host of chances the home side was unable to effect a breakthrough and fell behind to a super header from Darren Read who got on the end of a Danny Hinton cross in the 17th minute.

Read and Hinton were combining well and when Chris Minol sent Hinton down the flank after solid work by Peter Bennett and Paul Bentvelsen the visitors got their reward.

Minotaurs had Dario Fernandez sent off and struggled to get anything from their front runners who were well off target all afternoon.

For Penrith it was a great result as the club has lost so many players this year and has just said goodbye to Rowan Healy who has joined Sydney United.

AUBURN UNITED 0 RYDE CITY 3

Ryde kept up their slim chances of winning the title with a solid win at Mona Park over an enthusiastic, but uncoordinated Auburn outfit, still basking in the glory of their recent win over the Minotaurs.

A repeat was not to be as Ryde got an early lead from a low Jeff Kelly drive which crept inside Haydar Arslan's left post in the 6th minute and within another ten, Kelly had set up Matthew Borg for a telling volley to make it two.

A great first time shot by Tim Gledhill six minutes into the second period put the game beyond Auburn's reach and their few remaining chances were dealt with by stout defensive work, including that of new keeper Sam Krslovic, in the side following an injury to Anthony Philp who had been called on at short notice to replace Andrew Prentice who had been a shock departure the previous week.

MOUNT PRITCHARD 4 ROCKDALE SUNS 0

Mounties and their new coach Lee Sterrey made Rockdale look ordinary at Cook Park where many new faces were on parade.

Sean Babic crowned his home debut with a goal in the 84th after Mark Barrochi had put Mount Pritchard a goal up in the 28th and Ante Zizic had driven in a second from the penalty spot.

Bruni made it four near the end of a game which saw the defence provided by Zizic and Vladan Radic the basis of a fine win by the home side, which is back in contention again for some share of the honours.

EASTERN SUBURBS 2 WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 1

Easts needed a late Gerry Gomez goal to save them from a loss of two points at Wentworth Park against a fighting Warringah Dolphins.

An early goal by Latvian International Vadim Mikoutsky was cancelled out by Shamus Hayes in the 58th, setting up a grandstand finish, with Easts the winners.

BELMORE HERCULES 4 GREYSTANES 0

Belmore were always going to win their game with Greystanes at Blick Oval, but after Jim Melissourgos had put them ahead in the 14th minute, they let off the pressure and only a half time talking to by coach Marshall Soper restored their command of the game.

Jason Lal added a second and then the two star strikers each scored again for the emphatic win, but it could have been a lot more had David Apps not been at his very best, especially in the second half.

HILLS UNITED 3 ILLAWARRA LIONS 1

Hills made short work of a disappointing Illawarra Lions at Fred Caterson, scoring some good goals in the process.

Bernie Voloder showed his prowess in the 18 yard area with a smart turn and shot in the 25th minute, then saw his midfield team mate Adam Hagger hit a beautiful shot past Avellino six minutes later, after a Damon Thompson cross from the right.

Andrew Bow made it 3-0 when he was on hand to slam the ball into an empty net after Avellino had only parried a strong shot from Luke Allshorn.

Illawarra hit back with a well constructed Sasha Dimoski goal midway through the half, but Hills always looked to have their measure.

WEST WANDERERS 0 BATHURST 7

Who can stop Bathurst? That is the question on everyone's lips right now, following their 14th win and their extended unbeaten run which has seen the club pass the 50 goal mark already.

Bathurst will face their sternest test this coming weekend when they play two sides which have both beaten them this year, but their form away from home is so formidable that repeats of those earlier losses looks unlikely.

On this occasion Scott Mutton scored four, taking his season's tally to 22 and he was well supported by Archie Thomson, who scored a fine header himself.

Tony Judge was the scorer of the second goal and the last of the seven went to substitute Greg Thomas for the second week in a row.

Bathurst are creating a huge level of interest for the game in the state's west, and good luck to them.

Adrian Renike and David Judge had a hand in the goals as well, with keeper Braydon Barcham shrugging off a groin strain to set up play from the back with his intelligent throws.

All eyes will be on Bathurst from now on as they bring their caravan to Sydney for some big games in the remaining weeks.

STANMORE 2 FAIRFIELD BULLS 1

Stanmore beat Fairfield with Con Anagnostopoulos prominent in both goals that they scored at an overcast Arlington Oval.

The tall, left-footed striker punished Fairfield, who had failed to turn their first half territorial superiority into goals.

Anagnostopoulos lifted a sensational shot over the head of Zlatko Josevski from 30 yards out on the right after having his back to goal and with no runners around him, electing to try something out of the ordinary, which paid off handsomely.

He then engineered a second goal for skipper Eddie Briscoe, with a precision pass inside the area, which brought the keeper out a split second too late to stop a sliding shot from the captain from going into the net.

This goal came on the hour and ten minutes later Fairfield snatched a lifeline with a Sasha Talevski penalty after the same player had tangled with Burim Zajmi just inside the area.

Spectacular saves by both keepers kept the score down at Briscoe, Jason Oldridge and Anagnostopoulos all went close for Stanmore and Talevski and Stoddart were out of luck for the visitors during a well balanced game.

Zajmi also cleared off the line from a Stoddart volley in the first twenty minutes as the home side weathered an early storm.

Weekend Preview . . . Round 21

There is a full programme of games on both Saturday and Monday this coming long weekend and some very interesting fixtures are among them.

Hurstville Minotaurs are playing Bathurst at Arlington Oval, since Hurstville is not available and this game is one which should provide plenty of excitement.

It will be hard for Bathurst as the Minotaurs are no doubt keen to make amends for their two most recent losses, and will want to regain some of their lost prestige.

Bathurst have to face Ryde City at T G Millner on Monday so it is a very tough weekend for them — if they emerge from it with maximum points — then the gauntlet will have been well and truly thrown down to the other contenders.

Ryde plays at Penrith on Saturday, while Minotaurs entertain Fairfield in their second game, which will be interesting as the Bulls have appointed Rale Rasic to steer their fortunes for the rest of the current season.

His appointment was confirmed late on Sunday night.

Stanmore, the others in the frame for top four honours at this stage, are at Rockdale on Saturday and at home to Illawarra on Monday, so could emerge with enhanced credentials too if they are left unscathed.

The Auburn-Belmore game at Mona Park looks intriguing as these sides usually produce something special when they meet and both entertain realistic hopes of a top four spot.

Hills United can also press their claims as they tackle Warringah at Cromer and then back up at Fred Caterson against Eastern Suburbs, which will be a tough one, but not beyond them on present form.

West Wanderers will be at Fairfield for the first game in charge for the new Bulls' coach who could make life hard for the bottom club at the Nineveh ground.

LADDER LEADERS LEVEL IN BATTLE

By JOHN ECONOMOS.

The Top Of The Table clash between Leichhardt Tigers and Parramatta Eagles last Sunday, at the revamped Lambert Park, ended in a predictable 0-0 draw with the home side narrowly missing out on closing the gap on the NSW Super League leaders.

In the 14th minute, Leichhardt's right wingback Martin Driene almost broke the deadlock, but after shaking off two tackles his rocketting low drive from 20 metres cannoned off the base of the near post.

Whilst the Tigers lined up for combat with a sweeper (Troy Shipley) plus twin markers (Tom Bazdaric and Jeremy Pettenon), the Eagles were content to play without a libero, relying on twin centre-backs (Mark Reveley and George Souris) and the covering 'screener' (George Haniotis)

. This clash attracted some high profiled coaching identities. In from Adelaide came Marconi's new man Zoran Matic, from Perth came Glory's Gary Marocchi, whilst Sydney Olympic's new coach, Geoff Harcombe, was also spotted

Unfortunately for one of the three NSL masters, he had made a needless journey to the ground as he had hoped to watch Eagles' clinical sweeper David Huxley in action, however, he missed this match through suspension.

The Tigers' towering new goalkeeping sensation, the 6'4", 22 year old Ante Covic (currently being monitored by three NSL clubs), was hardly drawn into action. In fact, the Eagles failed to fire a single shot on target for the entire second half.

However the Eagles could have opened the score in only the third minute, but midfielder David Harding's perfect cross was headed wide of the target by attacking midfielder Christian Ortiz.

Five minutes before the break, Tigers' striker Mite Talcevski gathered possession to streak away on a 45 metre raid down the right, but his well struck effort flashed perilously wide of the far post.

It was always going to be a tough and close encounter, with the one goal probably being the decider.

It was disappointing that Parramatta's magical international midfielder, Gabriel Mendez, back from injury and looking to gain match fitness, was only an occasional contributor to the game, meanwhile Leichhardt's own 'mighty midget', John Buonavoglia, failed to prove his potential as a real match winner.

Leichhardt' coach Tony Pezzano, the former Australian international goalkeeper, felt a little cheated by the final result, electing to say, "My front runners worked really hard and I thought we had more of the game even though they had more possession. We hit the post and in the second session they didn't cause us any problems whatsoever. We didn't go out to specifically mark out anyone, but we threatened.

"Despite them (the Eagles) leading the ladder, and still by five points, I firmly believe that the Championship title is far from over."

Former Australian World Cup defender, and coach of the Eagles, Dougie Utjesenovic, later evaluated the game by saying, "We held the ball far too long thus the fluency was just not there, but I was happy with the final result. It was you could say, a disciplined performance.

"From the right side we had chances but just could not capitalise on them as the Tigers seemed really pumped up today and gave us a tough game."

Best performers for the Tigers were solid centre-back Tom Bazdaric, as well as Ante Juric and Mite Talcevski.

The Eagles were best served by their sturdy twin-centre-backs Mark Reveley and George Souris, plus right wingback Sasha Utjesenovic

LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Covic: Bazdaric, Shipley, Pettenon: Driene, Koch (Milicevic 72), Macolino (Williams 86), Bourke, Buonavoglia: Juric, Talcevski.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Holmes: Reveley, Haniotis, Souris: Utjesenovic, Harding, Mendez, Surjan, Ortiz: Karavatakis (Jee 80), Petrovski.

Yellow Cards: LEICHHARDT: Macalino (16), Juric (32), Pettenon (44), Milicevic (81) PARRAMATTA: Mendez (40), Ortiz (42) Souris (79)

Referee: S. Micallef.

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND TEN

Thursday June 5

Macarthur Rams v Canterbury Marrickville — Lynwood Park, 8.15pm

ROUND FOURTEEN

Saturday June 7

Central Coast v Blacktown City Demons — Pluim Park, 6pm

St. George Saints v Leichhardt Tigers — St. George Stadium, 7pm

Sutherland Sharks v Sydney United — Seymour Shaw Park, 7pm

Sunday June 8

Bankstown City Lions v Bonnyrigg White Eagles — Jensen Park, 3pm

Parramatta Eagles v Macarthur Rams — Melita Stadium, 3pm

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ERICSSON CUP GRAND FINAL

Minute by minute review of the Ericsson Cup Grand Final on Sunday May 25, 1997 between Brisbane Strikers 2 and Sydney United 0

1m — Youngsters Kasey Wehrman and Chay Hews combine brilliantly in midfield setting up Hews for a long range shot brillantly saved by keeper Zeljko Kalac.

7m — Sydney United free kick from Kresimir Marusic to Mark Babic, who shoots well over crossbar.

8m — Frank Farina lucky not to be booked for late tackle on Velimir Kupresak.

12m — Hews puts Sean Cranney away with defence splitting pass but Cranney's attempt denied by Kalac.

14m — Glen Gwynne injured in tackle but carries on for remainder of game.

19m — Ante Moric harmless long range shot straight to keeper Clint Bolton.

28m — Kresimir Marusic free kick into box plucked off head of Aytek Gencas he lined up to head at goal.

32m — Sydney United's David Zdrilic heads cross from Genc over crossbar.

38m — Sydney United on counter attack. Ante Milicic takes on Alan Hunter but curls shot well wide.

42m — Zdrilic booked for foul on Gwynne.

Half Time 0 - 0

46m — United midfielder Paul Bilkokapic drives free kick low for great save by Bolton.

47m — Hews crosses into box for Farina who rides tackle and slots first goal with left foot. Brisbane Strikers 1-0.

48m — United's Robert Trajkovski booked for foul on Strikers Troy Cranney.

51m — Strikers forward Rod Brown booked for deliberate hand ball.

52m — Sean Cranney breaks down right flank crosses to Hews but shot deflected for corner.

56m — Danny Wright long throw flicked on by Brown to Farina who lunges with left foot wide of upright.

63m — Syd United's Genc blasts poor clearance from Craig Williams over crossbar.

69m — Farina wins tackle in own box, passes to Kasey Wherman who sets up Sean Cranney with long run down flank. Cranney crosses for Brown who scores his 131st national league goal. Bris Strikers 2-nil.

73m — Farina booked.

81m — Bilkokapic booked.

83m — Jason Culina crosses for Zdrilic who heads over crossbar.

85m — Standing ovation from sections of crowd as Farina replaces himself with youngster Reece Tollenaere.

90m — Brisbane Strikers win first piece of silverware when crowned Ericsson Cup champions by two goals to nil.

CHAY HEWS: Brought in at last minute by Farina, and played superbly

MARK BABIC: Big effort from the wholehearted Sydney United player.

AYTEC GENC: Flying high as United team-mates David Zdrilic and Paul Bilokapic look on.

FRANK FARINA and PETER TOKESI: The Ericsson Cup is the Striker's!

ACT Soccer Federation

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— By GRAHAM COOKE

Olympic to make signing

Olympic hopes to sign former Ericsson Cup star Toplica Popovich who has returned to Canberra after a stint playing in Hong Kong.

Coach Ray Junna said Popovich had turned up for training and had expressed an interest in rejoining his old club.

"We are waiting on his clearance coming from overseas," Junna said. "Toplica's aim is to keep match fit until the beginning of the national league season when he will decide what he does next."

Popovich, whose old brother, Njegosh, is already in Olympic's line-up, would be a welcome addition to a team which has suffered more than its fair share of injuries this season.

Veteran front-man Baz Giampaolo has had a recurrence of an old hamstring injury; youngster Jose Exposito is only just making his way back to full fitness after bruising his ribs, and George Cattanach has been unable to reproduce the striking form which made him the early-season sensation while he was with Canberra City.

Junna said Cattanach had "copped a few knocks, he was suffering from concussion and missed a game on doctor's advice. It's been a bit stop-start for him since he joined us."

And to complete the picture, Canberra Cosmos defender Peter Mazis was sent off in his first game back for Olympic.

☛Aaron Fuller, who turned the heads of Belconnen United supporters at the beginning of the season, has headed overseas with his parents and will not be figuring in the club's plans for at least 18 months.

Even so, coach Lino Fiorese is not too disappointed. "Lee Pietrukowski is playing really well and is forcing his way into the side, we have a lot of depth at Belconnen," he said.

Despite being champion and holding a handy lead at the top of the league, Belconnen does not seem to generate the headlines like other teams, and Fiorese prefers to keep it that way.

"We let our football do the talking here, and really we like it out of the spotlight," he said.

"The pressure's on the other clubs — they're the ones who have got to chase."

Ray Junna: Hoping to strengthen his line-up.

LONG POCKETS AND SHORT ARMS

Ian Watkins, who died late last month, served Belconnen United in many different offices from the time he came to Canberra in 1975.

His sons, Allan, Michael and Brian, all played for United's juniors and it was as manager of the club's under-16 team that he began his long involvement.

By 1984, Brian had begun playing for Belconnen's first-grade side and Mr Watkins and his wife, Nancy, were involved in running the canteen at Hawker Oval.

At the end of the year he was elected United's treasure, beginning a period of stringency which restored financial health to the club. During this time his favourite expression was, "I have long pockets and short arms."

In 1987 he became a director of the parent Belconnen Soccer Club were, except for a short period of absence due to work, he served until his death.

He was always a 'hands-on' official, taking a mop and bucket to clear puddles on the pitch so a game might proceed. One of his last tasks was to design a new club badge, now being worn by all players and officials.

His support for Belconnen continued until the end. On the morning before his death his main interest was in the scores of games the club had played the previous day.

Ian Watkins: Centre back row, with his fellow 1994 Board of Directors

SUPER SUB SAVES MONARO

By GRAHAM COOKE

Darryl North, dropped from Monaro's starting line-up through lack of form, came off the substitutes' bench to win the Queanbeyan derby game for his club on Sunday.

Monaro was trailing 1-0 to lowly Queanbeyan City, and a shock ACT Premier League result was looming when North made his appearance in the 65th minute. In a remarkable late spell he scored twice to give his team a 2-1 win — and missed his hat-trick from the penalty spot.

Until his intervention Monaro, with new signing Alan Reis in an attacking midfield role, had dominated the play, but found no way around City's outstanding goalkeeper Jovanco Naumoski.

Reis, a former NSW Superleague player of the year, made an early impression — first with an outstanding cross from the right which Steve Simonov was thankful to blast out for a corner, then a free kick from the edge of the penalty area, superbly saved by Naumoski.

Queanbeyan took the lead, totally against the run of play, in the 32nd minute. Simonov played the provider with an excellent cross on to the head of Ilija Prenzoski, and the former Australian Joey directed the ball past Ben Harris from close range.

North, a bustling, inelegant, yet effective player, made his mark just four minutes after being introduced in the second half. The goal was typical — a scramble in the penalty area saw him arrive just ahead of the diving Naumoski to prod the ball in to the net.

The game turned on two incidents five minutes from the end. First Prenzoski broke free from Paul Macor in midfield and for a moment looked to have a clear run at goal.

He reckoned without veteran defender Steve Bryant who found the speed to cut across and whip the ball away on the edge of the penalty area.

From the resulting counter attack North cracked home the winner.

Reis waited too long and was dispossessed, then North failed to put the icing on a fine afternoon when Naumoski saved his penalty kick after Daniel Macor had been brought down.

"Darryl is normally a starter, but has been going through a bad spell, and with our big squad we could afford to put him on the bench," he said.

☛Two extra men were not enough for Belconnen United when it finished 1-1 with Olympic at Jamison Oval, writes Nick Guoth.

Excellent keeping by Paul Jones and scrambling defence marshalled by fellow ex-international Andrew Young, held out a continuous barrage throughout the second half.

The game started well for Olympic. Only five minutes in Elliott Zwangobani was fouled in the box and Young stepped up and calmly gave his side the lead.

From this stage the game was well balanced except for the indiscipline of two of the Olympic players. First Jose Exposito was marched and early in the second half Peter Mazis joined him, both for second cautionable offences.

At the half-way mark of the second stage, Jason Dunn was in the right place after a rebound to head home the equaliser.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Queanbeyan City	1	Monaro	2
Canberra City	6	Tuggeranong United	1
Weston Creek	3	Gungahlin Juventus	3
Belconnen United	1	Olympic	1
Canberra Deakin	3	University of Canberra	0

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bel United	9	7	1	1	0	28	4	24
W. Creek	9	6	1	0	2	32	16	20
Monaro	9	6	0	0	3	18	15	18
Olympic	9	5	1	0	3	22	10	17
C Deakin	9	5	1	0	3	19	11	17
C'berra C.	9	5	0	0	4	23	16	15
Juventus	9	2	2	1	4	14	14	11
Uni-Can	9	2	0	1	6	7	20	7
Queen City	9	2	0	1	6	8	28	7
Tugg'nong	9	0	0	0	9	6	43	0

Leading Scorers:

14 — S Lazzari (Weston Creek)
9— Popovich (Olympic)
6— Cattanach (Olympic - 6 for Canberra City), Popovich (Olympic)
7— Pangallo (Belconnen United)
5— Barac (Canberra Deakin), M Pietrukowski (Belconnen United)
4— Halton (Weston Creek), Manson (Belconnen United)
3— Young (Olympic), Prenzoski (Queanbeyan City), Buljan (Canberra Deakin), Macor (Monaro), G Exposito (Olympic).

Reserves: Queanbeyan City 0 Monaro 12, Canberra City 4 Tuggeranong United 0, Weston Creek 4 Gungahlin Juventus 0, Belconnen United 1 Olympic 1, Canberra Deakin 2 University of Canberra 1.
Points: Belconnen United 26, Olympic 25, Canberra Deakin 20, Weston Creek 17, Monaro 15, University of Canberra 13, Canberra City 11, Gungahlin Juventus 3, Tuggeranong United 3, Queanbeyan City 0.
Youth: Queanbeyan City 1 Monaro 7, Canberra City 8 Tuggeranong United 3, Weston Creek 2 Gungahlin Juventus 2, Belconnen United 2 Olympic 1, Canberra Deakin 8 University of Canberra 0.
Points: Canberra Deakin 27, Belconnen United 21, Weston Creek 20, Gungahlin Juventus 17, Olympic 14, Monaro 11, University of Canberra 10, Canberra City 10, Queanbeyan City 2, Tuggeranong United 2.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Cooma	7	Defence Academy	0
Belconnen United	3	White Eagles	0
University of Canberra	1	ANU	3
Burns Club	1	Capital City Suns	3

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burns Club	10	9	0	0	1	37	8	27
C.C.Suns	10	7	1	0	2	34	18	23
ANU	10	7	0	0	3	28	17	21
Cooma	10	6	0	0	4	28	18	18
Bel Utd	10	5	1	0	4	26	16	17
W.Eagles	10	3	0	0	7	11	28	9
Def Acad	9	1	0	0	8	8	39	3
Uni-Can	9	0	0	0	9	7	35	0

Reserves: Defence Academy 2 Cooma 0, ANU 2 University of Canberra 0, Belconnen United 6 White Eagles 2, Burns Club 6 Capital City Suns 0.
Points: ANU 25, Belconnen United 25, Burns Club 24, Cooma 14, White Eagles 12, Defence Academy 11, University of Canberra 7, Capital City Suns 2.
Youth: Defence Academy 5 Radford 1, Marist 2 White Eagles 2, Tuggeranong United 2 Belconnen United 3.
Points: Belconnen United 30, Radford 20, Belwest-Olympic 17, Tuggeranong United 15, Defence Academy 12, White Eagles 11, Marist 8. Note: Olympic-Belwest have withdrawn.

Kanga Cup — record entry

Organisers are tipping a record entry of 100 teams for the Kanga Cup international junior tournament which kicks off in Canberra on June 29.

The target may be ambitious as it will be a substantial boost from last year's record of 81, but there was no shortage of confidence during Thursday's launching ceremony at the ACT Legislative Assembly.

With Soccer forming the cornerstone of Canberra's Olympic involvement in 2000, senior bureaucrats and politicians formed a sizeable section of he audience, led by Chief Minister, Kate Carnell, who performed the launch.

She said teams from the United States, Denmark, New Zealand and Fiji had already announced their acceptances in the various age categories from under seven to 19.

"When you compare that with the 35 teams which made up the first Kanga Cup here in 1993, you get an idea of the great strides the code has made in the ACT," she said.

The president of the ACTSF, Steve Doszpot, said the competition is special "because it does not necessarily involve teams which are champions of their districts, states or countries.

"They are comprised of individuals with a sense of adventure and willingness to learn about other cultures through sport," he said.

And he threw out a challenge to future organisers to attract more participation from Australia's near neighbours "so this event can be utilised as a means of greater understanding in our region".

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Sunday, June 8

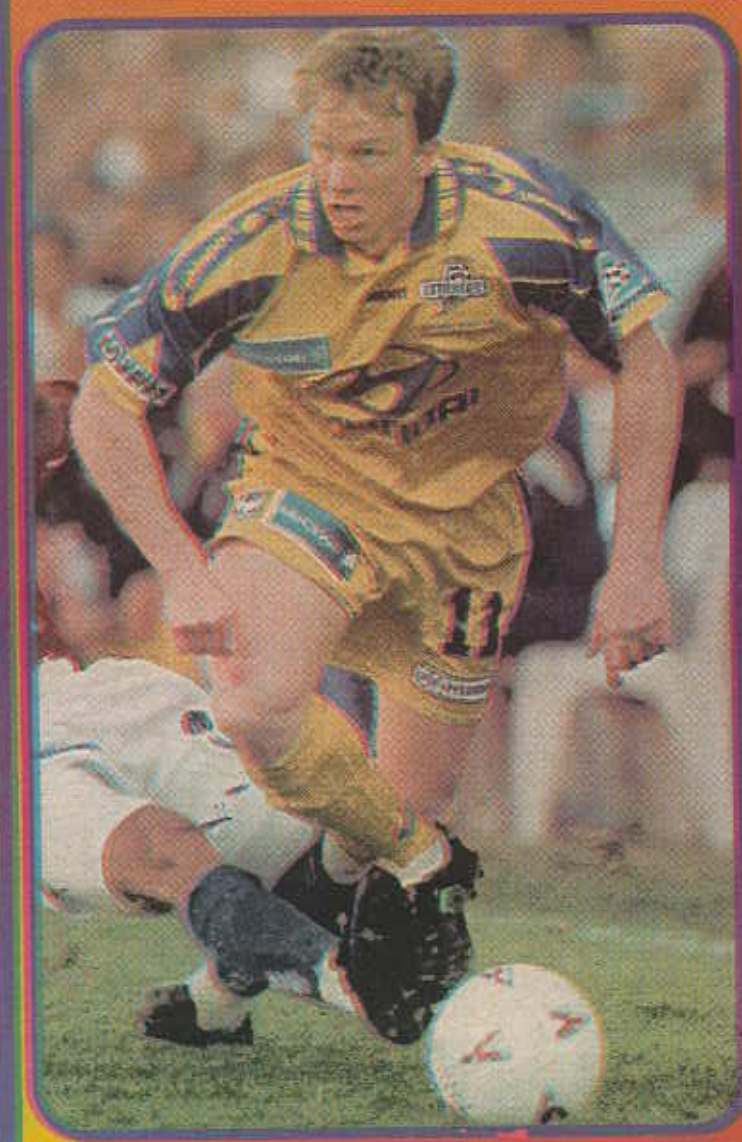
NO MATCHES — ACT Senior and Youth representatives teams playing Illawarra League in Wollongong, Saturday June 7

State League
Division 1
Saturday, June 7
Round 11

Capital City Suns v Defence Academy — O'Connor Oval
ANU v Burns Club — North Oval
White Eagles v University of Canberra — Woden Park
Cooma v Belconnen United — Nijong Oval

Reserves 1pm,

SOCCER THE WIN



NER in Brisbane

Victorian Soccer Federation

SUNSHINE GEORGIES 1
ALTONA MAGIC 3

By John Rigas

Ian Dobson replaced Zoran Trajcevski as coach of the Altona Magic for the rest of the season. Dobson made a match winning substitution when two goal hero Zoran Petrevski was introduced in the second half.

Star player Danny Madarovski gave Altona the lead in the 22nd minute when he pounced onto the loose ball to score into an open goal after Sash Becvinovski's strike was blocked by Steve Wardle.

Sunshine equalised ten minutes later through striker Sash Markovski who slotted the ball past Darren McGrath.

Youngster Petervski was brought on at half time to add spark to the Magic attack. Petrevski found himself on the scoresheet in the 47th minute when his shot on the turn gave Wardle no chance.

Petrevski scored his second in the 64th minute as he headed past Wardle at the far post via a cross from Savva Rusmir.

Georgies: Wardle, Kanesoulis, Field, De Bono, Tsirtsakis (Magnacca), Sevin, Branov, Cassar, Vassallo, Markovski, Daglaras.

Magic: McGrath, Barovic (Petrevski), Fak, Runje, Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir, Georgopoulos, Becvinovski (Siveski), Madarovski, Cvetkovski.

Referee: N. Zachriadis

Votes: 3 - Micevski (AM); 2 - Madarovski (AM); 1 - Petrevski (AM).

THOMASTOWN ZEBRAS 1
BENTLEIGH GREENS 2

By George Koukeris

The struggling Thomastown Zebras were the latest victim of the ever improving Bentleigh Greens at Partridge Reserve on Sunday.

After forty minutes of frustrating efforts by both teams, Bentleigh was given a controversial penalty when Ike Alagiozidis appeared tp trip in the box.

The claimant, Alagiozidis, converted the penalty just before the half time whistle.

In the second half Bentleigh scored their second goal after 50 minutes. Juan Nilo, with blistering pace convincingly snapped the nerve of the Zebras defence.

The Zebras were down and out, but for the resistance displayed by 'keeper, Bobby Trenkovski.

Thomastown bounced back and constant prešsure paid dividends. In the 79th minute, veteran Vlatko Belic crossed the midfield to head the Zebras back into the game.

A tremendous effort by Thomastown in the remaining ten minutes to equalise just wasn't enough.

Zebras: Trenkovski, Boschini, Belic, P.Della Rocca (Sapazovski), D.Della Rocca, Cuculevski, Iacovitti, Jolevski, Bichler, Lingurovski, Lazarevski.

Greens: Kourtis, Drakos (White), Micheil (Charalambous), McDonagh, Constantinou, Crivari, Kalimeris, Van Egmond, Boutslanis, Alagiozidis, Nilo.

Referee: A.Stacey *(Stacey was injured and replaced at half time by Steve Taousis)*

Votes: 3- Nilo (BG), 2- Jolevski (TZ), 1- Trenkovski (TZ)

PRESTON LIONS 1
SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES 0

By Milan Ninovic

Preston Lions moved into the top five with a hard fought 1-0 victory over Springvale White Eagles at Goodyear Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

The winning goal arrived in the 51st minute when Ivan Filiposki provided the pass which was met by Chris Emsovski who shot past Robert Brian.

Preston deserved their win as they made most of the play and created the better scoring opportunities.

Filiposki was the main culprit for the Lions as he missed three clear cut chances early in the first half.

It was Springvale who had the best scoring chance, two minutes before the interval when Danny Gnijdic put his shot over the crossbar from eight yards.

Lions: Acevski, Stavrevski, Emsovski (Talevski), Burlak, Lozanovski, Donev (Chiodo), Ivanov, Slavevski (Koulis), Filiposki, Drogriski, Lisolajski.

White Eagles: Brian, Kitanovski, Mlinar, Burlak, Calomino, Nikolic (M.Mihajlovic), Mladenovic (Kovacevic), Styczen (Rikanovic), Z.Mihajlovic, Gacovski, Gnjidic.

Referee: P.Mur

Votes: 3- Filiposki (PL), 2- Emsovski (PL), 1- Brian (SWE)

MELTON REDS 1
FAWKNER BLUES 2

By Zoran Milenkovski

Fawkner Blues gained an invaluable three points after defeating Melton Reds 2-1 at MacPherson Park on Sunday.

The win lifts the Blues up two positions but leaves the Reds still trapped in the relegation zone and staring at the possibility of playing in the first division next year.

Carlos Retre and John Grimaud returned to their old stamping ground to take on the Reds, just two of a number of players who have left Melton since the start of the season.

Melton went in at half time with a one goal break, Kamer Simsek slotting in beyond Fawkner 'keeper Maurice Gonzales.

Joe Tricarico equalised early in the second half with a shot on the turn which gave the Blues a lift to go on and get the winner.

Peter Psarros scored that winner for Fawkner late in the game.

Reds: John, L.Osman, Melideo, Hulusi, Freund, Bosevski, Scrobogna, M.Mustafa (Donnelly), Saglam, Ergin, K.Simsek.

Blues: Gonzales, Vassiliadis, Grimaud, Ferrante, Schipano, Radic, Psarros, Duzel, Tricarico, Retre, T.Sterjovski.

Referee: T.Dimitriou

Votes: 3- Grimaud (FB), 2- Vassiliadis (FB), 1- K.Simsek (MR)

BULLEEN INTER KINGS 1
GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 3

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Green Gully Cavaliers extended their lead at the top of the table to four points with a 3-1 win over their closest rivals, Bulleen Inter Kings.

The Cavaliers went ahead in the 8th minute A Steve Douglas through ball found Lachlan Armstrong in miles of space leaving Bulleen 'keeper Sean Keogh exposed. Armstrong punished some slack defending from the Kings.

Keogh was nearly beaten again four minutes later when he misjudged Peter Spiteri's cross. Keogh was lucky on this occasion as Spiteri's cross came back off the bar.

Bulleen equalised from the penalty spot in the 54th minute when Spiteri fouled Damon Collina. Anthony Grbac converted the spot kick.

Green Gully were ahead again just two minutes later when Vlad Babic cut the ball back for Steve Douglas to thump the ball past Keogh.

Any hopes of a Kings recovery were extinguished with a third Cavaliers goal in the 74th minute.

Armstrong's 2s metre free kick was tipped onto the bar by Keogh. Daniel Genovesi followed up and scored with a simple header.

Kings: Keogh, Stojcevski, Tsiakos, Mazzini, Sonsini (Inglese), Tartaglia, Collina, Grbac, McAleer (Iebbiano), Guglielmi (Krajacic), Ngata.

Cavaliers: Vella, Spiteri, Steve Douglas (Neceski - McMinimee), Sean Douglas, Waddell, Brown, Cuzzupe (Suric), Armstrong, Babic, Genovesi, Cimino.

Referee: G.Connolly

Votes: 3- Brown (GG), 2- Steve Douglas (GG), 1- Tartaglia (BK)

Fixtures for 7th — 9th June

Premier League Rd 17

Sunday June 8

Altona Magic v Thomastown Zebras — Paisley Park — kick off 3.00pm

Bentleigh Greens v Preston Lions — Kinston Heath Soccer Complex — kick off 3.00pm

Springvale White Eagles v Heidelberg United — Serbian Sports Centre — kick off 3.00pm

North Geelong Warriors v Melton Reds — Elcho Park — kick off 3.00pm

Port Melbourne Sharks v Sunshine Georgies — Anderson Reserve — kick off 3.00pm

Fawkner Blues v Bulleen Inter Kings — Smith Reserve — kick off 3.00pm

Monday June 9

Green Gully Cavaliers v St Albans Saints — Green Gully Reserve Reserve — kick off 8.30pm

Victorian Soccer Federation

STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

Springvale City 2 - Richmond 3
Northcote City 2 - Broadmeadows City 0
Moorabbin City 2 - Doncaster Rovers 0
Kingston City 2 - Lalor United 1
Maroondah Arrows 1 - South Dandenong 2
Westgate 0 - Western Suburbs 1
Westvale 3 - Werribee City 0

Table: Moorabbin City 30, South Dandenong 28, Westvale 24, Richmond 20, Kingston City 20, Western Suburbs 19, Werribee City 16, Northcote City 13, Lalor United 12, Springvale City 12, Westgate 9, Doncaster Rovers 8, Broadmeadows City 7, Maroondah Arrows 6.

DIVISION TWO RESULTS

Mooroolbark 1 - Essendon Bruns. Royals 0
Old Scotch Waverley 3 - Frankston Pines 4
Oakleigh 1 - Regent Bulla 0
Frankston Strikers 0 - Altona City 3
East Richmond 6 - Bell Park 2
Knox City 2 - Yarraville/Glen Eira 2
Altona East 2 - Ringwood City 0

Table: Ringwood City 25, Altona East 23, Oakleigh 22, Frankston Strikers 21, Regent Bulla 20, Altona City 18, Knox City 17, East Richmond 15, Old Yarraville/Glen Eira 14, Essendon Brunswick Royal 12, Mooroolbark 11, Old Scotch Waverley 9, Frankston Pines 5, Bell Park 1.

DIVISION THREE RESULTS

Geelong 2 - Banyule City 0
Melbourne City 2 - South Caulfield 2
Pascoe Vale 3 - North Coburg United 1
South Springvale 3 - Cranbourne 1
Diamond Valley United 2 - South Werribee 2
Keilor Park 2 - Chelsea 3
Nunawading City 0 - Fitzroy City 3

Table: Cranbourne 26, South Springvale 24, Chelsea 23, Melbourne City 16, South Werribee 13, Banyule City 13, Geelong 12, Fitzroy City 12, Pascoe Vale 12, North Coburg United 11, Diamond Valley Utd 10, South Caulfield 10, Keilor Park 10, Nunawading City 4.

DIVISION FOUR RESULTS

Corio 2 - Seaford United 2
Lalor 1 - Langwarrin 1
Williamstown 0 - Stonnington City 1
Sunbury United 2 - Keysborough 2
Sandringham City 5 - Geelong Rangers 1
Monbulk 0 - Clifton Hill United 2
Moreland City 2 - Sunshine Heights 1

Table: Keysborough 26, Stonnington City 22, Langwarrin 22, Williamstown 20, Clifton Hill United 18, Moreland City 18, Sunshine Heights 16, Geelong Rangers 16, Sandringham City 15, Corio 10, Lalor 8, Seaford United 7, Sunbury United 7, Monbulk 4.

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE RESULTS

Sunshine Blues 1 - Knox Park 2
Endeavour United 4- Mitcham United 2
Doveton 1 - Lyndale United 4
Croxton Park 4 - Brandon Park 0
Ballarat 0 - North Sunshine Eagles 2
South Wantirna 0 - Melton 1
Glenroy 2 - Springvale Condors 3

Table: Knox Park 27, Melton 24, South Wantirna 21, Croxton Park 19, North Sunshine Eagles 16, Springvale Condors 15, Lyndale United 14, Brandon Park 13, Sunshine Blues13, Endeavour United 12, Mitcham United 8, Glenroy 5, Ballarat 5, Doveton 1.

DIVISION TWO RESULTS

Sydenham Park 3 - Riversdale 2
Meadow Park 2 - Berwick City 2
South Yarra 4 - Braeside United 3
Hoppers Crossing 0 - Brunswick City 7
Templestowe Eagles 3 - Waverley Wanderers 0
Keon Park - Bye

Table: Templestowe Eagles 17, Riversdale 17, Brunswick City 16, Sydenham Park 16, South Yarra 15 Keon Park 14, Berwick City 8, Hoppers Crossing 8, Meadow Park 7, Braeside United 3,Waverley Wanderers 0.

DIVISION THREE METRO RESULTS

Ashburton 2 - Morwell Pegasus 2
Camberwell Grammar 1 - Uni. of Melb. Blues 2
Melbourne University 3 - Monash University 3
Newborough/Yallourn 5 - Dandenong 0
Elwood City 1 - Ringwood Rovers 1
Keilor United - Bye

Table: Newborough/Yallourn 22, Morwell Pegasus 16, Uni. of Melb. Blues 15, Ashburton 14, Melbourne University 14, Dandenong 10, Monash University 9, Camberwell Grammar 9, Elwood City 7, Ringwood Rovers 7, Keilor United 5.

DIVISION THREE NTH/WEST RESULTS

Whittlesea United 1 - Broadmeadows United 3
West Preston 3 - Watsonia Heights 0
Somerton City 3 - Latrobe University 3
Northern United 2 - Mill Park 1
North Reservoir 3 - North Glenroy 1
Brimbank 3 - Darebin United 3

Table: Broadmeadows United 22, Latrobe University 22, Brimbank 17, Somerton City 15, Darebin United 13, North Glenroy 12, Northern United11, Mill Park 11, North Reservoir 10, Whittlesea United 8, Watsonia Heights 5, West Preston 0.

DIVISION THREE STH/EAST RESULTS

Thornbury United 1 - East Kew 1
Noble Park 2 - Endeavour Hills 1
Ivanhoe United 0 - Flemington Falcons 2
Parkmore 2 - Monash City 1
Dingley City - bye
Collingwood City - bye

Table: Dingley City 21, Noble Park 13, East Kew 12, Thornbury United 11, Collingwood City 10, Flemington Falcons 8, Monash City 7, Endeavour Hills 7, Parkmore 4, Ivanhoe United 3.

PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 15

Green Gully Cavaliers 2 (Cuzzupe, Genovesi) — **Melton Reds 0**

Round 16

St Albans Saints 4 (Jolic, I.Colina, Pelja, Karl) — **Port Melbourne Sharks 1** (Tsaltas)
Sunshine Georgies 1 (S.Markovski) — **Altona Magic 3** (Madarovski, Petrevski 2)
Bulleen Inter Kings 1 (Orbac) — **Green Gully Cavaliers 3** (Armstrong, Steve Douglas, Genovesi)
Melton Reds 1 (T.Simsek) — **Fawkner Blues 2** (Tricarico, Psarros)
Heidelberg United 2 (Sevastiadis, Vouloumanos) — **North Geelong Warriors 3** (John Didulica 2, Petrovski)
Preston Lions (Emsovski) **1** — **Springvale White Eagles 0**
Thomastown Zebras 1 (Belic) — **Bentleigh Greens 2** (Alagiozidis, Nilo)

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cav.	16	10	4	2	31	11	34
Altona Magic	16	8	6	2	28	14	30
Bulleen Kings	16	9	3	4	27	17	30
Preston Lions	16	8	4	4	25	19	28
St.Albans Saints	16	7	5	4	29	28	26
Port Melbourne	16	8	1	7	31	24	25
Heidelberg United	16	7	4	5	31	25	25
Springvale White.E	16	7	4	5	29	23	25
Bentleigh Greens	16	6	6	4	46	26	24
Fawkner Blues	16	4	5	7	26	32	17
Sunshine Georgies	16	4	4	8	32	43	16
Thomastown	16	4	3	8	25	29	15
Melton Reds	16	2	2	12	18	53	8
Nth Geelong Warr.	16	2	1	13	12	45	7

STATE /PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 ROUND 12

Saturday June 7
South Dandenong v Kingston City

Sunday June 8
Werribee City v Westgate
Western Suburbs v Maroondah Arrows
Lalor United v Moorabbin City
Doncaster Rovers v Northcote City
Broadmeadows City v Springvale City
Richmond v Westvale

DIVISION 2 ROUND 12

Saturday June 7
Ringwood City v Knox City
Yarraville/Glen Eira v East Richmond
Bell Park v Frankston Strikers
Altona City v Oakleigh
Regent Bulla v Old Scotch Waverley
Frankston Pines v Mooroolbark
Essendon Bruns. Royals v Altona East

DIVISION 3 ROUND 12

Saturday June 7
Fitzroy City v Keilor Park
Chelsea v Diamond Valley United
South Werribee v South Springvale
Cranbourne v Pascoe Vale
North Coburg United v Melbourne City
South Caulfield v Geelong
Banyule City v Nunawading City

DIVISION 4 ROUND 12

Saturday June 7
Sunshine Heights v Monbulk
Clifton Hill United v Sandringham City
Geelong Rangers v Sunbury United
Keysborough v Williamstown
Stonnington City v Lalor
Langwarrin v Corio
Seaford United v Moreland City

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 1 ROUND 11

Saturday June 7
Springvale Condors v South Wantirna
Melton v Ballarat
North Sunshine Eagles v Croxton Park
Brandon Park v Doveton
Lyndale United v Endeavour United
Mitcham United v Knox Park
Glenroy v Sunshine Blues

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 2 ROUND 9

No matches this week due to Provisional League Cup Round 2 to be played on Monday June 9, Queens Birthday.

DIVISION 3 METRO ROUND 9

No matches this week due to Provisional League Cup Round 2 to be played on Monday June 9, Queens Birthday.

DIVISION 3 NTH/WEST ROUND 9

No matches this week due to Provisional League Cup Round 2 to be played on Monday June 9, Queens Birthday.

DIVISION 3 STH/EAST ROUND 9

No matches this week due to Provisional League Cup Round 2 to be played on Monday June 9, Queens Birthday.

This week Radio 3BM 'Big Match' match of the day is Port Melbourne Sharks v Sunshine Georgies, 3BM can be found at 1116 on the AM dial and the program runs from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Also you can catch the 'Big Match Review' program on Monday night from 8.30pm to 10.30pm, also on 1116 Radio 3BM.

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Around the Globe

World Cup

European Group Two

England 2 Poland 0
(Shearer 5, Sheringham 90)
Crowd: 30,000

Oceania Group Two

PNG 1 New Zealand 0
(Moyap)

Australia

Trial Match

Australia Green 2 Australia Gold 2
(Foster 63, Trajanovski 71) (Vidmar 56 pen, Mori 67)

Austria

League Championship

FC Tirol Inns	1	Casino Graz	4
FC Linz	3	Linzer ASK	0
SCN Admira	3	SV Ried	1
Sturm Graz	3	Rapid Vienna	0
Austria Vienna	3	SV Salzburg	1

SV Salzburg	35	19	11	5	54	25	68
Rapid Vienna	35	17	12	6	62	36	63
Sturm Graz	35	14	12	9	50	31	54
FC Tirol Inns	35	15	7	13	45	40	52
Casino Graz	35	11	13	11	39	42	46
Austria Vienna	35	12	9	14	41	51	45
Linzer ASK	35	9	17	9	38	43	44
SV Ried	35	11	6	18	42	58	39
FC Linz	35	6	13	16	29	45	31
SCN Admira	35	6	10	19	35	64	28

SV Salzburg are Champions.

Croatia

Cup Final

Croatia 2 Zagreb 1
(Cvitanovic 30 pen, Viduka 65) (Sopic 77)

Germany

Bundesliga

Bayer Lever	2	Bochum	0
Fortuna Dussel	1	Hamburg	1
1860 Munich	0	Werder Bremen	3
Freiburg	1	Karlsruhe	1
Hansa Rostock	0	Schalke	1
VfB Stuttgart	4	Arminia Bielefeld	2
Borussia Moen	2	Bayern Munich	2
St Pauli	0	Duisburg	2
Borussia Dort	2	Cologne	1

Bayern Munich	34	20	11	3	68	34	71
Bayer Lever	34	21	6	7	69	41	69
Borussia Dort	34	19	6	9	63	41	63
VfB Stuttgart	34	18	7	9	78	40	61
Bochum.	34	14	11	9	54	51	53
Karlsruhe	34	13	10	11	55	44	49
1860 Munich	34	13	10	11	56	56	49
Werder Bremen	34	14	6	14	53	52	48
Duisburg	34	12	9	13	44	49	45
Cologne	34	13	5	16	62	62	44
Borussia Moen	34	12	7	15	46	48	43
Schalke	34	11	10	13	35	40	43
Hamburg	34	10	11	13	46	60	41
Arminia Biele	34	11	7	16	46	54	40
Hansa Rostock	34	11	7	16	35	46	40
Fortuna Duessel	34	9	6	19	26	57	33
Freiburg	34	8	5	21	43	67	29
St Pauli	34	7	6	21	32	69	27

Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen qualify for European Champions League.

Italy

Cup Final Second Leg

Vicenza 3 Napoli 0
(AET)
Vicenza win 3-1 on aggregate.

Japan

J-League

Osaka Gamba	3	Jubilo Iwata	1
Yokohama Mar	3	Osaka Cerezo	2
Urawa Reds	3	Kashiwa Reysol	2
Shimizu S-Pul	1	Fukuoka Avispa	0
Kyoto Pur San	1	Nagoya Gramp Eight	3
Bellmare Hirat	3	Kobe Vissel	0
Verdy Kawa	0	Yokohama Flugels	4
JEF Utd Ichih	0	Kashima Antlers	2

Kashima	10	8	2	21	11	22
Yokohama F	9	7	2	19	7	21
Hiratsuka	10	7	3	17	11	20
Yokohama M	10	8	2	24	20	20
Osaka G	11	6	5	22	13	18
Kashiwa	10	6	4	19	13	18
Iwata	10	6	4	16	12	17
Shimizu	10	6	4	13	12	17
Hiroshima	10	5	5	14	14	15
Osaka C	11	5	6	14	20	13
Nagoya	10	4	6	11	14	12
Urawa	10	4	6	14	16	11
Ichihara	10	4	6	16	17	10
Kyoto	10	3	7	10	21	9
Kawasaki	11	3	8	13	19	8
Kobe	11	3	8	16	28	8
Fukuoka	11	2	9	8	19	6

Norway

First Division

Haugesund	2	Skeid	1
Stabaek	0	Stroemsgodset	1
Tromsoe	1	Viking	1
Bodoe/Glimt	4	Molde	0
Kongsvinger	1	Lyn	1

Stroemsgodset	10	8	0	2	20	12	24
Rosenborg	9	4	4	1	23	6	16
Brann	9	5	1	3	19	14	16
Kongsvinger	10	4	3	3	15	17	15
Bodoe/Glimt	9	4	2	3	15	9	14
Viking	10	3	5	2	15	11	14
Molde	9	4	2	3	11	11	14
Lillestroem	9	4	2	3	11	14	14
Stabaek	9	3	3	3	11	12	12
Tromsoe	9	2	5	2	13	11	11
Haugesund	10	3	2	5	10	15	11
Skeid	10	3	1	6	16	21	10
Lyn	10	1	3	6	8	18	6
Sogndal	9	1	1	7	7	23	4

Sweden

Cup Final

AIK Stockholm 2 Elfsborg 1
(Lagerlof 69, Novakovic 74) (Thorstensson 51)

Women's International

Under 21

USA 1 Australia 0
Schwoy

Western Australia Premier League

Round 10

	1st	Res	U/18
Floreat Athena v Western Knights	2-5	1-0	1-2
Bayswater City v Swan IC	4-0	3-1	9-0
Spearwood Dalmatinas v Olympic Kingsway	3-0	2-1	3-4
Dianella White Eagles v Sorrento	1-1	1-1	1-1
Inglewood Falcons v Stirling Macedonia	3-2	5-1	2-2
Morley Hyundai Windmills v Perth	2-4	1-1	0-11
Joondalup City v Fremantle City	1-1	0-4	4-2

First Division

Round 10

	1st	Res	U/18
Queens Park v Rockingham City	2-2	1-2	0-2
North Lake v Ashfield Burnbury	2-10	0-2	1-7
Perth City v Bassendeon Caledonian	1-2	0-5	3-5
Wonneroo City v Cockburn Utd	1-0	1-4	2-1
Leeming Strikers v Armadale	0-0	2-2	2-8
Balga v Southside Utd	1-5	1-5	0-22
Stirling Suns v University	6-2	0-1	3-0

Northern NSW

NBN League — Firsts

Round 7

	1st	Res	U/18
Easts Maitland v Toronto Awaba Stags	0-4	2-2	0-2
Cessnock Hornets v Wallsend Red Devils	1-1	1-2	0-1
Weston Workers Bears v Hamilton Warriors	1-1	1-2	0-2
Belmont Swansea Swans v Edgeworth	0-7	0-2	2-1

Edgeworth Eagles	7	5	2	0	33	7	17
Broadmeadow Magic	6	5	1	0	13	3	16
Weston Workers Bears	7	3	4	0	20	6	13
Toronto AWABA Stags	6	3	1	2	17	13	10
Highfields Wolves	6	3	1	2	7	5	10
Hamilton Warriors	6	2	3	1	12	11	9
Easts Maitland	7	1	1	5	4	15	4
Belmont Swansea Swans	7	1	1	5	5	28	4
Cessnock Hornets	6	0	3	3	8	16	3
Wallsend Red Devils	6	0	1	5	4	19	1

Tooheys League — Firsts

Round 10

W/Wallsend B'Bells	1	Lambton Jaffas	1
Beresfield Utd	0	Thornton Park	1
Stockton Sharks	3	Dudley/Redhead	4

Beresfield United 21, Lambton Jaffas 19, South Cardiff Gunners 18, Dudley - Redhead Utd 16, Budgewoi Budgies 15, West Wallsend Bluebells 14, Pasminco Roosters 12, Manning Mustangs 12, Thornton Park 11, Stockton Sharks 6, Singleton Strikers 6, Tingira Eagles 3.

Queensland XXXX League

Round 12

Rochedale Rov	0	Coalstars	2
Brisbane Lions	1	Beenleigh	3
Wynnum	2	B'Berg Waves	2
Taringa Rovers	1	Brisbane City	0

Taringa Rovers	12	8	2	2	26	10	26
Brisbane Lions	12	7	2	3	19	13	23
Brisbane City	12	6	4	2	17	13	22
Rochedale Rov	12	5	2	5	22	21	17
Beenleigh	12	5	0	7	19	23	15
B'Berg Waves	12	3	4	5	19	19	13
Coalstars	12	4	1	7	14	23	13
Wynnum	12	2	1	9	15	29	7

SP DIV 1N

Newmarket	2	Olympic United	0
Pine Rivers Utd	1	Mitchelton	2
Grange Thistle	0	North Star	2
Eastern Subs	3	Capalaba	2
The Gap	1	Albany Creek	1

Mitchelton	10	7	1	2	24	12	22
North Star	10	6	2	2	23	12	20
Pine Rivers Utd	10	5	2	3	27	17	17
The Gap	10	3	4	3	21	18	13
Albany Creek	10	3	4	3	16	14	13
Newmarket	10	3	3	4	17	21	12
Eastern Subs	10	3	3	4	18	24	12
Olympic Utd	10	3	3	4	13	20	12
Capalaba	10	2	3	5	15	16	9
Grange Thistle	10	1	3	6	11	31	6

SP DIV 1S

Slacks Creek	3	Souths Utd	1
Mt Gravatt	5	Inala City	0
Rocklea Utd	1	Acacia Ridge	0
Redlands Utd	0	Toowoomba Utd	8

Toowoomba Utd	9	8	1	0	37	7	25
Mt Gravatt	9	4	3	2	27	9	15
Slacks Creek	8	4	3	1	22	18	15
Inala City	9	4	2	3	21	16	14
Rocklea Utd	8	4	2	2	15	14	14
Souths Utd	9	2	2	5	21	33	8
IPSW St Helens	8	2	1	5	7	23	7
Acacia Ridge	8	0	4	4	7	18	4
Redlands Utd	8	0	2	6	6	25	2

Around the Globe

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL

Dortmund brush Juventus aside

Matthias Sammer and Jurgen Kohler found great pleasure that Dortmund answered its critics in the best way possible by beating Juventus 3-1 in the European Cup Final in Berlin's Olympic Stadium, last Wednesday..

Two goals from Karlheinz Riedle and another from Lars Ricken was enough to bring Dortmund its first ever European Cup title in emphatic fashion. Alessandro Del Piero pulled one back for Juventus.

European Footballer of the Year and sweeper Sammer said afterwards, "We had so much criticism but this success answers it in the best way possible."

Central defender Kohler declared, "Words fail me. Many thought we were dead and buried and had already signed our death certificate. But, despite this adversity, we found forces within us to come back and win. It's fabulous."

Karlheinze Riedle: Dreamt of scoring two and did just that.

Dortmund, sponsored by Continental Tyres hence the big 'C' on their shirts, had been criticised for poor recent performances which meant they finished third in the Bundesliga after winning the last two seasons.

Zinedine Zidane: Hit post with great shot just before half time.

Ottmar Hitzfeld, coach of Dortmund who had even had his future questioned before the match, said that the pressure had been unbearable.

"We realised this was our last chance to qualify for the Champions League next season, but that first goal gave us some self belief and we have won a famous victory not just for Dortmund but for Germany as well," Hitzfeld said.

Dortmund's win meant it became the first German club to take the title since Hamburg in 1983.

It was also the first time an Italian club had not won one of the three European competitions since 1992 and gave Germany its second title this season after Schalke 04's UEFA Cup win.

Juventus coach Marcel Lippi paid tribute to the country's success.

"Germany are clearly a great footballing nation at the moment. They won the European Cup, the UEFA Cup and also Euro 96 - that's impressive."

Portugal's Paolo Sousa also became the second player to win successive European Cups with different clubs after winning with Juventus last year. Marcel Desailly was the other player to manage the feat, winning for Marseille in 1993 and for AC Milan a year later.

Riedle's first goal came in the 29th minute from a move following a corner on the left. Peruzzi made a weak fisted clearance and Scotland's Paul Lambert crossed from the right. Riedle shot home left-footed. He was unmarked and had time to control brilliantly on his chest, as he stood free inside the goal area.

Five minutes later a corner again from the left was headed firmly home, from four metres, by Riedle leaving Juventus keeper Angelo Peruzzi no chance.

Three minutes from the break, Zinedine Zidane hit the post from outside the box. A minute later Juve had the ball in the net from Christian Vieri but it was ruled hand ball by referee Sandor Puhl.

However Juventus pulled a goal back in the 64th minute when substitute Del Piero fired home from an Allen Boksic cross from the left.

Ricken, who scored the goal in the 1-0 second leg win at Manchester United in the semi-final, had been on the pitch just seconds before scoring Dortmund's third in the 71st minute with a 25-metre lob over the stranded Peruzzi.

Juventus coach Marcel Lippi brought off rightback Porrini at half-timebefore bolstering the Boksic/Vieri attack with Del Piero. Juventus then put together a sustained period of pressure which brought the best out of Dortmund keeper Stefan Klos.

First he saved brilliantly from Vladimir Jugovic, turning the ball round the bottom of his left hand post.

Then Klos just got his fingertips to a left footed lob by Vieri which he tipped over the bar. Klos also easily held Boksic's accurate header in the 61st minute.

Dortmund skipper Stefan Reuter said Riedle had had a dream that he would score two goals, one with his left foot and one with his head. "And his performances on the pitch made the dream come true," Reuter added. "We had an unbelievable win."

Lars Ricken: On pitch just seconds when he lobbed Peruzzi.

Alessandro Del Piero: Half time sub who scored the only Juventus goal.

European Leagues Champions

A number of European country's leading competitions have come to the end of their respective seasons. Here is a summary.

Belgium's winner is Lierse. They come from the small town of Lier in the north of the country. They won by two points from Club Brugge.
This is the fourth time that Lierse have been champions. Their last win was in 1960.

PSV Eindhoven are the champions of Holland. This is their fourteenth title. Feyenoord of Rotterdam were runners up.

Germany saw Bayern Munich return to the winners enclosure. Like PSV this was Bayern's 14th title. Leverkusen completely reversed their last season's form, when they barely escaped relegation, to edge out the new European Champions League winners, Borussia Dortmund.

In England Crystal Palace have regained a Premier League place at the expense of Sheffield United who they beat in the play off final.
They join Bolton and Barnsley in winning promotion.
Steve Coppell returned to the staff this season, so probably his influence has aided in the new found status.

Crewe Alexandra won the 2nd Division promotion play off spot at Wembley. They beat Brentford with the only goal of the game.
This is the highest the Club has been since 1896 when they failed re-election to Division 2. However 101 years ago, there were only two divisions.

Meanwhile in Division 3 a ninetieth minute goal gave Northampton Town the only goal of the game against Swansea.
Northampton are famous for a rise from the old Fourth to the First in the five years from 1961 to 1966. Within three years they fell back to the third.
In recent seasons they have been more renowned for the fight to retain their League status.

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

Aussie Youths in close encounter

Australia's Under 21 combination went down by a single goal 1-0 against the USA Youth Team last Tuesday in San Diego for a promising start to the US Tour.

Played at the AMCOR Olympic Training Center, the first youth international between the two proved to a tight match, with the Aussies certainly not outclassed. US National Youth Coach Lauren Gregg was using the match as an important part of her selection process with Nordic Cup places up for grabs, after bringing 24 players into camp for a week prior to the game.

For Australia it was a welcome lead-up match to the prestigious US Cup, as well as vital experience for the team, especially the fringe and younger players, and a good indicator of Australia's progress at youth level.

The Aussie camp was confident before the opener, coach Brown said on the eve of the match, "The whole squad is looking very sharp and the players are confident of a morale boosting performance. We watched USA trial and we feel we can match them for quality all around the park."

With both sides allowed to field up to four over-age outfield players from the bench, Brown named seniors Sharon Black, Traci Bartlett, Katrina Boyd and Anissa Tann-Darby as substitutes.

National Coach Greg Brown selected the experienced Lisa Casagrande to captain the side, and switched her to a striker's role from her usual midfield position for the match.

Fifteen year old Alicia Ferguson partnered Casagrande up front, with Amy Wilson and Bryony Duus operating in central midfield, and Tammie Thornton and Taryn Rockall playing wide. Sweeper Bridgette Starr had Kristyn Swaffer as stopper, with Amy Taylor and Kristy Dugomanov in the fullback roles. Joanne Butland took her place in goals.

Australia made a nervous start and were quiet for much of the half. Queensland keeper Butland suffered the disappointment of being replaced due to injury after just twenty minutes, despite seeing relatively little action.

The home side soon settled into the match and took advantage of the Australians' cautious play, dominating the middle stages of the first half. What was to become the winning goal was put away in the 29th minute, ninetee year-old midfield sensation Laurie Schwoy sticking the ball in the back of the net from inside a congested goalmouth.

Replacement goalie Belinda Kitching was then called upon to pull off a spectacular save at close range before the break to keep Australia in the game.

After half time, Australia came out a different team, playing with renewed purpose to comfortably play the ball out from the back and create opportunities for strikers Casagrande and Ferguson.

Casagrande had the best chance to equalise for the visitors midway through the half with a typical defence-splitting run, but could only manage a weak strike at the target. Eager for a result, Brown threw three forwards in attack, which saw the US goal put under siege for the final twenty minutes, but without a match saver.

Outstanding for the Aussies was Starr, marshalling well in the centre of the defence, but unfortunately sustaining a knee injury to put her in doubt for the vital US Cup matches.

Brown was relatively happy with the performance and summed up by saying, "We continue to narrow the gap against the Olympic Champions, but again we were too tentative in the first half."

Lisa Casagrande: Leading the attack for Australia U/21s.

Alicia Ferguson: The fifteen year old was up front against the USA in San Diego.

THE HEAT TURNS UP FOR AUSSIES

Another thrilling clash against world superpower and Olympic Champions USA is next on the agenda for the Australian outfit in the US Women's Cup.

The Aussies have of course recently taken on the US over three matches this year at home, showing further maturity over the course of the series. Those performances added to the vast improvement in evidence from the Australians' super results recorded against the Americans just prior to them lifting the Gold medal at the Olympic Games last year.

Again on foreign soil the challenge is as tough as ever, and the lineup named by US Head Coach Tony DiCicco is certainly star-studded with no less than nine Olympians. The champs, since playing in Australia, have enjoyed a run of six impressive wins over France, Korea and England in the Nike Victory Tour.

The Australian camp travels to the state of Pennsylvania for the feature battle on Thursday night (Friday 9.00am AEST) to be played at Upper Dublin High School in Ambler. A sell-out crowd of 5,000 will fill the compact stadium in an area where women's Soccer has really taken a hold.

To wrap up Australia's participation in the US Cup, the side takes on Canada, a team presently largely unknown to Brown and his charges. But Canada will present as formidable opponents, and have shown improvement over recent years in the World Game.

Canada finished a clear second behind USA in the Concacaf playoffs to earn a berth in the 1995 World Cup. There they finished third in Group C behind Norway and England, with an overall placing of tenth compared to Australia's twelfth. The match should prove an interesting assignment for Australia, with a victory very much a realistic target.

The action takes place still in Pennsylvania but this time in Oakford at the United German-Hungarian Club this Saturday 7 June at 8.00pm (Sunday 10.00am AEST).

INJURY TOLL RISES

NSW defender Bridgette Starr has been denied the chance to compete in the US Cup after suffering a knee injury during her impressive performance in the Under 21 clash. Diagnosed as a medial ligament strain, the injury has forced Starr to make a premature journey home to Australia for treatment.

Physiotherapist Ed Hollis was due to make a full assessment of the damage on Starr's return last Friday.

ACT's Amy Taylor, who was scheduled to fly home after the youth international, has been called into the Australian Team as Starr's replacement.

In other concerns on tour, Australian captain Sunni Hughes has torn a hamstring at training, putting her in doubt for the Cup opener against Italy. Forward Lisa Dunne has also been fighting to overcome a slight groin strain.

AUSTRALIA'S SQUAD

	Age	Caps	Goals
Traci Bartlett	25	10	1
Sharon Black	26	12	1
Katrina Boyd	25	10	4
Joanne Butland	18	0	0
Lisa Casagrande	19	24	8
Kristy Dugomanov	19	0	0
Lisa Dunne	29	12	2
Bryony Duus	19	4	0
Sonia Gegenhuber	26	38	1
Sunni Hughes	28	43	31
Belinda Kitching	19	5	0
Kim Revell	22	15	2
Kristyn Swaffer	21	10	1
Anissa Tann-Darby	29	41	5
Amy Taylor	17	2	0
Tammie Thornton	21	11	0
Amy Wilson	16	3	0
Shelley Youman	29	8	0

Coach: Greg Brown

USA SQUAD

	Pos.	Caps	Goals
Justi Baumgardt	M	8	2
Brandi Chastain	D	49	11
Tracy Ducar	GK	8	0
Lorrie Fair	D	17	0
Julie Foudy	M	105	19
Mia Hamm	F	127	72
Debbie Keller	F	16	3
Kristine Lilly	M	130	50
Shannon MacMillan	M	33	13
Laura Martin	M	0	0
Tiffeny Milbrett	F	73	29
Cindy Parlow	F	25	11
Christie Pearce	D	9	1
Laurie Schwoy	M	0	0
Briana Scurry	GK	53	0
Thori Staples	D	45	1
Tisha Venturini	M	80	30
Sara Whalen	D	2	0

AUSSIES FALL TO MORACE BRILLIANCE

ITALY 3 AUSTRALIA 0
(Panico 33, Carta 44, 75)

Australia suffered a telling blow going down 3-0 against Italy in a tight and physical opening match of the US Women's Cup at Grant Field, New Hampshire last Saturday night.

Before a crowd of 2,127, the first ever international between the two, was played on an uneven and bumpy pitch, responsible for putting both defences under pressure for the first thirty minutes of the match. Playing the ball out from the back became risky business when trying to cope with the unpredictable bounce.

Australia was extremely unlucky with a 4th minute shot from captain Sunni Hughes which was cleared off the line. Then, fifteen minutes later, a similar fate for Anissa Tann-Darby's shot off a corner kick denied Australia taking the lead. A regulation chance later in the half saw Hughes with only the keeper to beat, again not put away, to add to the day's scoring woes.

Italy's Carolina Morace then came into her own, living up to her superstar status with a major hand in all three goals. Her diagonal run attracted the attentions of three Aussie defenders before she slotted the ball through to teammate Patrizia Panico, free at the far post. Her close range shot wrong-footed keeper Kitching, producing the opener for Italy in the 33rd minute.

Morace, a minute before half-time, then looked set to shoot with the ball at her feet just outside the 6 yard box and again the Aussies swooped in numbers, but instead, the maestro sent the ball back across goal to the unmarked Antonella Carta, who chested the ball and smashed home a volley into the roof of the net for a truly spectacular strike.

With a two goal buffer, Italy was content to pack their defence and leave Morace up front as the sole target player in the second half. They relied on the counterattack as Australia pushed forward in search of a goal. And so it was more, Morace brilliance with a pass to release Cartar for a third thumping goal in the 75th minute.

Australia came away very frustrated from a game where play was fairly even throughout, but another occasion where chances to score were not taken. Best for Australia, according to national coach Greg Brown, in his first full international at the helm, were midfielders Lisa Casagrande and Sharon Black.

USA defeated Canada 4-0 in its opening match earlier in the day in Connecticut. The physical Canada held out the champions for 40 minutes before conceding a goal to Tiffeny Milbrett. The second half became the Mia Hamm show, putting away a hat-trick inside a sixteen minute period.

Australia: Kitching, Tann-Darby, Swaffer, Bartlett (Thornton 79), Gegenhuber, Black, Casagrande, Revell (Duus 89), Youman, Hughes, Boyd (Dunne 79).

HEAD to HEAD

Australia v USA

16 Dec 1987	Australia	0	USA	6	4th World Invitational, Taiwan
10 Jun 1995	Australia	1	USA	4	2nd Women's World Cup, Sweden
3 Aug 1995	Australia	2	USA	4	US Women's Cup, USA
4 Jul 1996	Australia	1	USA	2	Pre-Olympics Test Match, USA
6 Jul 1996	Australia	1	USA	2	Pre-Olympics Test Match, USA
28 Feb 1997	Australia	0	USA	4	Ram Sports Cup, Melbourne
2 Mar 1997	Australia	1	USA	3	Ram Sports Cup, Bathurst
5 Mar 1997	Australia	0	USA	3	Ram Sports Cup, Canberra

Australia v Canada

Dec 1987	Australia	2	Canada	0	4th World Invitational, Taiwan
Dec 1987	Australia	0	Canada	0	4th World Invitational, Taiwan
11 May 1995	Australia	0	Canada	3	Pre-World Cup Test Match, Canada
13 May 1995	Australia	3	Canada	0	Pre-World Cup Test Match, Canada

South Australian Soccer

By Val Migliaccioi

MUTUAL COMMUNITY FEDERATION CUP FINAL

THE BATTLE OF THE EAGLES

West Torrens Birkalla Eagles v Adelaide Blue Eagles
Monday June 9 at THEBARTON OVAL — Kick off 2.30pm

South Australia's richest knockout cup competition comes to a head when the Mutual Federation Cup Final, kicks off at 2.30pm, Monday June 9. The venue, Thebarton Oval, the brand new home of West Adelaide Sharks.

When you look back at the Mutual Community Federation Cup Final over the years there have been some classic battles with many memories of heroes and villains gone by.

Two leading South Australian Premier League clubs, West Torrens Birkalla the reigning State League champions and Adelaide Blue Eagles, champions of the Premier League for the 3rd time in a row, have won the right to contest this prestigious and exhilarating trophy.

The Blue Eagles line up has an incredible wealth of riches. The three Giannitto brothers Angelo, Tony and Pino are all one club men and backbone of the Firle club. Donato Dileso is a tower of strength in defence with his aerial dominance. When Dileso has the opportunity to move forward he can create goalscoring opportunities. Midfield powerhouse Darren Jones has taken the responsibility of winning the hard ones and his running off the ball creates space in the midfield, making room for the maestro, player/coach Zoran Karadzic and we all know what this man is capable of. Striker Michael Berlingeri has the gift of lethal finishing and it will be interesting to see whether his superquick brother Joe will pass a fitness test for the Final.

West Torrens Birkalla fresh from State league promotion have all the qualities to suggest that they will be no pushover. They have been strengthened this season with notable signing including Lachlan Campbell and Jason Trimboli (Para Hills), Frank Sergi (Croydon), Anthony Best, Steve Giovanello and Dino Paris (Adelaide City). Coach Charlie Villani has instilled a distinctive playing style at the Birkalla club and has groomed a very competitive unit in the space of a few months. Birkalla's Greg Mills has been the centre of all the Eagles victories with his instrumental directing of traffic from the back and adding his years of experience to the young guns. Birkalla are at their most powerful when the brilliant Lachlan Campbell and wide left midfielder Kurt Wilkinson are in form. Campbell has an unselfish workrate with great vision providing striker Sam Barbaro with opportunities to do the damage. Jason Trimboli's ability as the target man to put pressure on the Blue Eagles defence will certainly provide Birkalla with plenty of options to open up the way for a goal feast with Frank Sergi the due for a big match.

Looking back over the 1997 season these teams have met twice with Adelaide Blue Eagles winning the firrst encounter 3-0 in the Smokefree Premier League Round 1 at Adey Reserve. Birkalla's lack of finesse in front of goal cost them dearly.

Birkalla reversed the score again by 3-0 in the second match.

If season form is any guide the Blue Eagles will start as slight favourites being the higher placed team on the ladder. History has shown the Cup Final form guide has the same accuracy as a long range weather forecast. It comes down to which team has the determination and the skill to lay their reputation on the line. The amount of courage displayed on the day, will play a major part.

For the statistical freaks, West Torrens Birkalla have won the Mutual Community Federation Cup five times with their first success way back in 1938 and most recently in 1987. Adelaide Blue Eagles have tasted success four times with their first in 1981 and the last in 1995. Leading up the Final, during the 1997 Mutual Community Federation Cup campaign Adelaide Blue Eagles have played 3 matches scoring 14 goals and conceding 3. WT Birkalla also played 3, scored 11 without conceding a single goal!

What does all this mean? Absolutely nothing, this is the Mutual Community Federation Cup Final, hang on to your hats and watch the strongest Eagle soar!

The Under 23 Mutual Community Federation Cup Final, to be played at Rushworth Reserve, sees Modbury Jets meet White City Woodville. In the Under 19 Bailetti Sports Youth Cup Final, Port Lion Pirates take on Campbelltown City.

EAGLES IN FULL FLIGHT

White City Woodville 1 West Torrens Birkalla

WT Birkalla reinstated their claim as genuine title candidates after a convincing 3-1 over White City Woodville Warriors at Woodville West. Lachlan Campbell for Birakalla was instrumental in the victory yet it wasn't all one way traffic.

The match billed as the Living Health match of the day, with $1000 cash for the winner, was certainly one of the most entertaining matches this season in the Premier League.

1996 Minor Premiers, White City, were bolstered by the return of Jovan and Simon Dacic from suspension. The Warriors started the match in convincing fashion, and in the 9th minute had their first goalscoring opportunity when Jovan Dacic's dangerous cross was fumbled by Birkalla keeper Daniel Bieze, luckily the ball was cleared off the line by the covering Anthony Best. White City continually attacked and were rewarded in the 13th minute when Ryan Moore received the ball on the edge of the box and struck a half volley with the outside of his left boot. It cannoned into the back of the net off the post to make it 1-0 to the Warriors.

Birkalla replied emphatically in the 17th when best on ground, Campbell finished off a fine attacking move for the equaliser. The match soon became spicy with end to end attacking forays by both sides. In the 36th minute White City had a penalty claim turned down by referee Petros Katsiokalis when Frank Salmeron was felled in the penalty box.

As the second half unfolded Birkalla started strongly but could not break down the Warriors defence — superbly controlled by Simon Dacic and Chris White. The Barbaro brothers, Sam and Joe on loan from Adelaide City, worked hard in midfield and started to create space for the Eagles, with Steve DeGiovanello chiming in with inch perfect passes. Substitute Kurt Wilkinson took a quick throw in on the half way line in the 65th minute and caught the Warriors napping by releasing Lachlan Campbell wide down the left. Campbell squared the ball inside the penalty area and Sam Barbaro finished off a fine move slotting the ball past the advancing goalkeeper Archie Christakos — 2-1 to the Eagles as the game was reaching a crescendo of intensity.

Jovan Dacic was desperately unlucky in the 79th minute when in one movement he fooled defender Nigel Souter on the edge of the box and his thunderbolt cannoned off the crossbar. Birkalla gained the ascendancy in the 83 minute and once again Sam Barbaro was the receiver from a great Campbell pass inside the area and after making space for himself his right footed shot hit the base of the post and was cleared to safety.

The 'piece de resistance' came in the 89th minute of the match when the Warriors Stav Parrissos was booked after committing a foul on the edge of the box. Steve De Giovanello tapped the ball to Sam Barbaro who "killed" the ball and De Giovanello bent the ball around the wall into the bottom right hand corner of the net a la 'Alessandro Del Piero'. This piece of magic made it 3-1 to the Eagles and an emphatic denoument to the events of the day.

Commonwealth Bank Senior State Championships

Saturday, June 7
Grange Sporting Complex

12.45pm	Opening Ceremony
1.00pm	SAASL v RSA
3.00pm	NASA v WBSA

Sunday, June 8, Grange Sporting Complex

1.00pm	NASA v RSA
3.00pm	WBSA v SAASL

Monday, June 9, Thebarton Oval

10.00am	WBSA v RSA
12.00pm	SAASL v NASA
1.45pm	Award ceremony to winning Association and Player of the Tournament

THE ROAD TO THE MUTUAL COMMUNITY FEDERATION CUP FINAL IN 1997

THE ADELAIDE BLUE EAGLES ON THE HIGHWAY!

Round 1 R & R (Rest and Recreation)

Round 2, 22/3/97

White City Woodville Warriors 1 Adelaide Blue Eagles 6

Round 2 was billed as the day White City could settle their differences after the Blue Eagles took out the Championship 4-3 against the Warriors at Hindmarsh in the 1996 Grand Final. Well it wasn't to be! The Blue Eagles were awesome and they destroyed the Warriors 6-1.

Round 3, 31/3/97

Adelaide Blue Eagles 3 Para Hills Knights 1

The masters took on the apprentices. Para Hills gave a good account of themselves and in the end the experience of the Blue Eagles overwhelmed the Knights.

Semi-Finals, 19/5/97

Adelaide Blue Eagles 5 Campbelltown City 1

The Paddock provided the neutral venue for this eastern derby. A good crowd turned out to witness a one way battle. The Blue Eagles played their best Soccer for the year and gained the ascendancy over their rivals with some clever counter attacks and putting their chances away. West Torrens Birkalla Eagles on the highway!

Round 1 R & R (Rest and Recreation)

Round 2, 22/3/97

WT Birkalla 4 Port Pirie City 0

Port Pirie City caught the full brunt of an eager Birkalla side who were all fighting for regular first team positions. A steady as she goes performance from Birkalla saw them coast home without too much difficulty.

Round 3, 31/3/97

Croydon 0 WT Birkalla 2

The Croydon Kings unleashed a team which will hopefully see them back in the premier league but met their match when Birkalla crashed them out of the cup with a good solid performance.

Semi-Finals, 19/5/97

Enfield City 0 WT Birkalla 5

State league giantkillers Enfield were quietly confident when they ran onto the Pirate Park. Birkalla quickly reinstated that they were in the Cup for keeps with their powerful team display and overall desire to win. The encounter finished very lop sided with 5 good goals to Birkalla.

Full Results

Steel United (Whyalla) 5 Riverland Soccer Association 2

Round 1 March 15, 1997

Adelaide City	4	Plympton	2
Adelaide Raiders (Amateurs)			4
Port Pirie Red Devils	1		
Modbury	2	Seaford	3
West Adelaide	0	Para Hills	2
Westlands (Whyalla)	3	Enfield	5 (penalties)
Noarlunga (penalties)	5	Elizabeth	4
Cumberland	1	Croydon	2
Port Pirie City	1	Steel United	
(Whyalla)	0		

Round 2 March 22, 1997

Olympians	0	Enfield	1
Campbelltown City	2	Noarlunga	0
WT Birkalla	4	Port Pirie City	0
White City	1	Adelaide B Eagles	6
Adelaide City	0	Raiders	1
Croydon	8	Seaford	0
Port Lion	4	Salisbury	0
Adelaide Raiders (Amateurs)			2
Para Hills	4		

Round 3 March 31, 1997

Raiders	1	C'belltown City	3
Enfield	4	Port Lion	2
Adelaide Blue Eagles	3	Para Hills	1
Croydon Kings	0	WT Birkalla	2

Semi-Finals May 19, 1997

Enfield	0	WT Birkalla	5
Adelaide Blue Eagles	5	C'belltown City	1

Smokefree Premier League
Round 9

White City	1	WT Birkalla	3
Adelaide B Eagles	2	Port Lion	2
Raiders	3	Campbelltown	0
Salisbury	0	Olympians	2

Table . . .

Raiders 21, Adelaide Blue Eagles 17, WT Birkalla 15, Campbelltown 13, Olympians 13, White City 9, Port Lion 8, Salisbury 5.

State League
Round 10

Adelaide City	1	West Adelaide	0
Plympton	0	Para Hills	5
Elizabeth City	4	Port Pirie	3
Noarlunga Bulldogs	1	Croydon Kings	2
Modbury Jets	2	Cumberland	
Foxes	3		
Enfield City	4	Seaford	3

Table . . .

Croydon Kings 24, Elizabeth City 24, Cumberland Foxes 22, Adelaide City 21, Para Hills 15, Port Pirie 15, Modbury Jets 13, Enfield 11, Plympton 8, West Adelaide 7, Noarlunga Bulldogs 6, Seaford 3.

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SOUTH AMERICA

— Compiled By Mario Etchart —

Passarella names squad for Peru

Argentine coach, Daniel Passarella, has named his squad for the match against Peru to be played on June 8 in Buenos Airies. This is an important game for both teams in the South American 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds and the Copa America.

The Argentines are in third place, just one point behind Colombia, who will visit Uruguay in Montevideo in another crucial encounter.

Passarella recalled defenders Jose Chamot, from Lazio, and Javier Zanetti from Inter Milan, as well as River Plate's Leonardo Astrada and attacking midfielder Juan Borrelli from Oviedo for the Peruvian encounter.

There are eleven players based overseas and nine from local clubs.

Meanwhile, Peruvian tactician, and former international midfielder Juan Carlos Oblitas, selected 18 players to face the Argentines. Peru caused the surprise of the last round when they beat Colombia, 1-0 at Barranquilla, while Argentina defeated Ecuador 2-1 in Buenos Aires.

Argentina squad is:

Goalkeepers: Roa, Caballero
Defenders: Ayala, Chamo, Diaz, Pineda, Paz, Sensini, Zanetti
Midfielders: Almeyda, Astrada, Bassedas, Berti, Borrelli, Ortega, Simeone, Morales
Strikers: Calderon, Crespo, Lopez.

Peruvian squad is:

Bazalar, Legario, Sanenz, Balerio, Julinho, Serrano, Solano and Soto, Miranda. Pereda, Carranza, Maestri, Olivares, Reynoso, Palacios, Carty, Dulanto.

Uruguay select New Faces

Uruguayan coach Juan Ahuchtain named a squad of twenty five players to face Colombia on June 8, for the South American 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds.

The match is crucial for Uruguay's chances of qualifying for France '98, while for the Colombians, who will go to the match with several changes to their team, it will be important to take the three points to maintain their second place on the ladder, behind leader Paraguay.

Ahuchtain has added a new face to his team. Goalkeeper Carlos Nicola resigned from the squad and was replaced by Claudio Arbiza who plays for Chilean champion Colo Colo.

Meanwhile, Colombia named their final squad for the match against the Uruguayans.

The full squad is:

Goalkeepers: Cordoba, Calero
Defenders: Palacio, Cabrera, Asprilla, Santa, Mosquer, Cordoba.
Midfielders: Perez, Escobar, Estrada, Valderrama, Zapata, Pacheco.
Strikers: Ricard, Bonilla, Zuleta.

LIBERTADORES CUP LATEST

Peruvian champion Sporting Cristal, Racing Club from Argentina and Chilean champion Colo Colo are the first three teams to qualify for the semi finals of the Libertadores Cup.

Sporting Cristal defeated Bolivar 3-0 in the return match. Bolivar won the first leg 2-1 however it was the Peruvians who qualified with a better goal difference.

Peruvian midfielder Norberto Solano opened the account in the 7th minute with a well executed free kick. Defender Jorge Soto added the second in the 54th after a brilliant individual effort, while African striker Amareto netted the third in the 66th.

Racing Club of Argentina also qualified for the semi finals after a dramatic 3-2 victory over Uruguayan champion Penarol in a penalty shoot out.

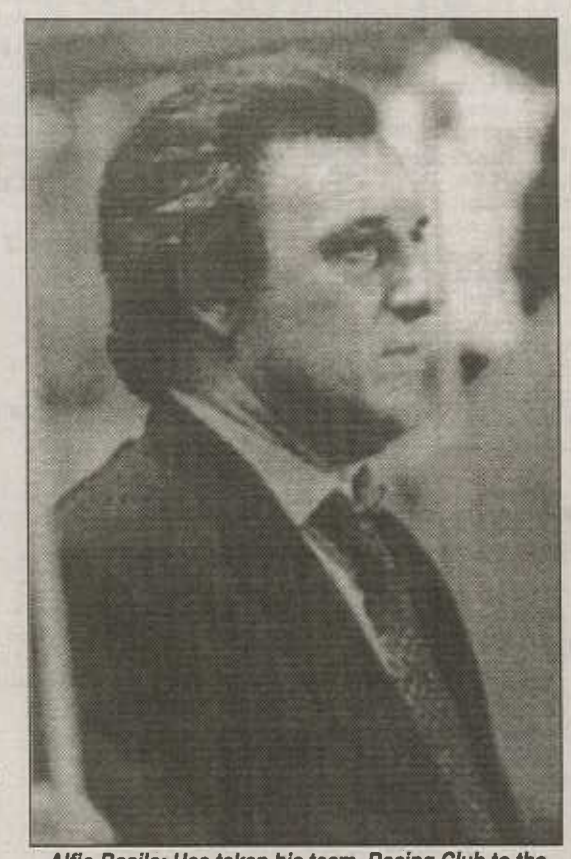
In the first leg, played in Montevideo, Penarol defeated Racing 1-0 with a goal from defender Robert Lima — while in Buenos Aires, Racing beat Penarol with the same scoreline thanks to a "gola" from striker Ruben Capria.

Racing, coached by Alfio Basile, will try to win the Libertadores Cup for the second time in its history. The Argentines won the championship in 1967 and Basile was a member of that squad.

Chilean champion Colo Colo avenged their 2-1 first leg loss to arch rival Universidad Catolica by defeating them 3-1 in the return bout, and subsequently qualified for the semi finals with a better goal difference. The match, played at Colo Colo's Monumental stadium attracted a crowd of 55,000.

Chilean international striker Fernando Vergara opened the score for Colo Colo in the 7th minute before Catolica's Argentine striker Alberto Acosta equalised in the 11th. Sierra added Colo's second in the 57th. Former Chilean international striker, Ivo Bassay, netted the third in the 63rd to secure passage for the Chileans.

Meanwhile, in the last quarter final, Cruzeiro defeated Brazilian champion Gremio 2-0 in Belho Horizonte. The return will be at Gremio's Olympic stadium in the beautiful Porto Alegre.



Alfio Basile: Has taken his team, Racing Club to the Libertadores Cup Semi Finals.

Cruzeiro: victorious over Gremio by two goals to nil.

BOLIVIA'S SQUAD FOR DO OR DIE BATTLE

Bolivia will face Venezuela in a game that the Bolivians must win to keep alive their chances of quailfying for France'98.

Bolivian coach, Antonio Lopez, named a squad of 25 players, among them star midfielder Erwin "Platini" Sanchez. **The squad is:**

Goalkeepers: Trucco, Soria, Fernandez.

Defenders: Sandy, Rimba, Jiguchi, Castillo, Sanchez, Sergio Castillo, Pena, Ochoaizpur.

Midfielders: Soria, Castillo, Melgar, Blanco, Etcheverry, Baldivieso, Sanchez, Ramos.

Strikers: Limber, Mendez, Moreno, Coimbra.

☆ ☆ ☆

TARINGA ROVE TO TOP OF XXXX

By GLENN DAVIS

A late header from young striker Glen Kolpak enabled Taringa Rovers to surge three points clear at the top of the Fourex League, courtesy of a thrilling 1-0 win over Brisbane City at Jack Speare Park on Sunday.

In a round of upsets, Taringa were the only side in the top four to take maximum points, following surprise losses for Rochedale Rovers and Brisbane Lions.

Rochedale, who went down to Taringa last week, were no match for a vastly improved Coalstars who ran out 2-0 winners, courtesy of a Frazer Cuba penalty and a second half goal from midfielder Wes Park.

Lions, who meet Taringa in the Queensland Cup second round on Wednesday night, suffered at the hands of Beenleigh who posted three goals from Alan Gordon, Brett Druery and Marc Lederhose. Cameron Watson notched Lions' solitary strike.

In the final match of the round, Bundaberg and cellar dwellers Wynnum fought out an enthralling 2-all draw.

Meanwhle, Taringa coach John Ogden was delighted with his team's fighting spirit. They took the game to Brisbane City for the entire second half.

"It was a very tight game, particularly in the midfield," Ogden said.

"The first half was a real arm wrestle but Brisbane City didn't create many chances so we went looking for it after the break.

"Overall we deserved to win because we pushed forward looking for goals."

A telling substitution by Ogden paved the way for the game breaker when young midfielder Des Hughes came off the bench to set up Kolpak for a neatly struck header past City keeper Danny Duke.

Ogden singled out Taringa sweeper Dmitri Theochari as his side's best and predicted a promising future for the 23 year old.

"Since I put Dmitri back to sweeper this year he's been playing out of his skin," Ogden, a former long serving national league player said.

"In fact, he wouldn't be out of place as sweeper with a national league side."

Ogden is not getting carried away with the result, but believes the side's on the right track for premiership honours.

"I was really surprised to hear Lions lost as the last thing I told my players was that if we lost to Brisbane City, Lions would jump ahead of us on the ladder," he said.

Rochedale's defeat stunned their supporters after it came out on top of last week's defeat by Taringa.

However, in fairness to Coalstars, the result could have been much worse with the Coalminers blowing several chances in the second half.

Weird & Wonderful 1920-21

By Stuart Jones

On May 18, 1920 representatives from the Southern and Football League met to discuss plans for a Third Division in the latter's competition. Eleven days later it was established, thus striking a crucial blow to the Southern League.

Lincoln City failed to gain re-election whilst Cardiff City and Leeds United entered the Second division. Poor Grimsby Town had to join all the Southern League sides in the new Third Division.

The First Division title went to Burnley (who had finished runners-up the previous season). The Turf Moor boys were five points clear of Man City, and a further two ahead of third placed Bolton — Derby and Bradford had very poor seasons and were relegated — Tottenham proved a point by finishing sixth.

While Division One was fairly clear, the opposite was the case in Division Two. Cardiff City, having been put straight into the Second Division, were equal on points with Birmingham City on the last day. Both teams had away games. Cardiff did all they needed to do by defeating Wolves by 3-1. However, Birmingham also won (2-0 over rivals Port Vale) to take out the title on goal difference, and so both were promoted.

Coventry and Stockport finished in the relegation zone, yet due to further expansion, only Coventry went down.

Division Three had Crystal Palace, so strong in the Southern Division, win by five points over Southampton.

Poor old Gillingham, they propped up the entire league, finishing bottom of the Football League.

One club that played in the third division was Wales' Merthyr Town. Apart from Cardiff, they were the only Welsh club to have entered that season. Set-up in 1909, the club were well supported, but unemployment in the coal mines had eroded their backing. By 1930 they were out of the Football League and four years later, sadly, they folded.

Nine years hence the beautifully named Merthyr Tydfil was formed and it continues to play today, as a 'rebel club', in the pyramidic structure of the English Non-League system.

Further success came Tottenham's way when they reached the semi final of the FA Cup when they defeated Preston 2-1. Their opponents that day would be Wolves, who Cardiff City took to a replay before being beaten 3-1.

For Cardiff, good times would come later in the decade.

The Cup Final was held at Stamford Bridge for the penultimate time, in front of a crowd of 72,000, including the King himself (no not Elvis!). Game reports suggest Wolves put up a stubborn fight but ten minutes into the second-half, Bliss' pass put Dimmock through who regained his poise and shot low and hard into the back of the net. There were further chances for Spurs but none were converted. After a twenty year lapse, the Cup had returned to White Hart Lane.

The Southern League reformed their competition into an English and Welsh section. Nine clubs in the English section were reserve teams. Furthermore, there was a new professional team, Charlton Athletic. Portsmouth reserves had led most of the way but Brighton Reserves but them 3-1. By the time 'Pompey' had completed their fixtures, the Hove Reserve side only needed four points from their remaining three games. They easily achieved this and were duly crowned English Champions.

In the Welsh division, Barry were clear winners. The play-off for the overall championship was held at 'The Den', and after playing 80 minutes of extra-time, the game ended 1-1. The replay at Ninian Park in Wales was won by Brighton reserves 2-1.

In 'Bonny Scotland', 22 clubs played in the one Division with Rangers dominating, finishing a massive ten points clear of Celtic. The 'Gers' lost only one game all season, at home to Celtic 0-2.

At the other end of the table, St Mirren struggled (winning only seven).

Regarding the Scottish FA Cup, Rangers qualified for the final by defeating Albion Rovers 4-1 in the semis. Hearts and Partick played out two 0-0 draws before Partick scored two unanswered goals in the third game to also qualify.

The Final was played at Celtic Park and in a huge upset, Partick scored the only goal of the game to take home the trophy and inflict on Rangers only their second defeat of the season.

Around Europe:

Austria	**SK Rapid Wien (Cup - Amateure)**
Belgium	**Daring CB**
Germany	**IFC Nurnberg**
Holland	**NAC Breda (Cup - Schoten)**
Italy	**US Pro Vercelli 2-1 SC Pisa**
Poland	**Cracovia**
Romania	**Venus Bucuresti**
Spain	**Copa Del Roy winners; Athletic Club de Bilbao (4-1 over Athletic Club de Madrid)**
Sweden	**IFK Eskilstuna**
Switzerland	**Grasshopper Club Zurich**

Southern League

English Section

Brighton & Hove Res 35, Portsmouth Res 33, Millwall Res 28, Southampton Res 27, Boscombe 26, Reading Res 25, Luton Town Res 24, Charlton Athletic 24, Watford Res 22, Norwich City Res 21, Gillingham Res 17, Chatham 16, Thornycrofts 14.

Welsh Section

Barry 30, Aberdare Athletic 27, Ebbw Vale 25, Pontypridd 23, Mid Rhondda 23, Abertillery Town 21, Ton Pentre 19, Aberaman Athletic 17, Llanelly 16, Mady 10, Porth Athletic 9.

1920/21 Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burnley	42	17	3	1	56	16	6	10	5	23	20	59
Manchester C	42	19	2	0	50	13	5	4	12	20	37	54
Bolton W	42	15	6	0	53	17	4	8	9	24	36	52
Liverpool	42	11	7	3	41	17	7	8	6	22	18	51
Newcastle U	42	14	3	4	43	18	6	7	8	23	27	50
Tottenham H	42	15	2	4	46	16	4	7	10	24	32	47
Everton	42	9	8	4	40	26	8	5	8	26	29	47
Middlesbrough	42	10	6	5	29	21	7	6	8	24	32	46
Arsenal	42	9	8	4	31	25	6	6	9	28	38	44
Aston Villa	42	11	4	6	39	21	7	3	11	24	49	43
Blackburn R	42	7	9	5	36	27	6	6	9	21	32	41
Sunderland	42	11	4	6	34	19	3	9	9	23	41	41
Manchester U	42	9	4	8	34	26	6	6	9	30	42	40
WBA	42	8	7	6	31	23	5	7	9	23	35	40
Bradford C	42	7	9	5	38	28	5	6	10	23	35	39
Preston NE	42	10	4	7	38	25	5	5	11	23	40	39
Huddersfield T	42	11	4	6	26	16	4	5	12	16	33	39
Chelsea	42	9	7	5	35	24	4	6	11	13	34	39
Oldham A	42	6	9	6	23	26	3	6	12	26	60	33
Sheffield U	42	5	11	5	22	19	1	7	13	20	49	30
Derby Co	42	3	12	6	21	23	2	4	15	11	35	26
Bradford	42	6	5	10	29	35	2	3	16	14	41	24

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	42	16	4	1	55	13	8	6	7	24	25	58
Cardiff C	42	13	5	3	27	9	11	5	5	32	23	58
Bristol C	42	14	3	4	35	12	5	10	6	14	17	51
Blackpool	42	12	3	6	32	19	8	7	6	22	23	50
West Ham U	42	13	5	3	38	11	6	5	10	13	19	48
Notts Co	42	12	5	4	36	17	6	6	9	19	23	47
Clapton O	42	13	6	2	31	9	3	7	11	12	33	45
South Shields	42	13	4	4	41	16	4	6	11	20	30	44
Fulham	42	14	4	3	33	12	2	6	13	10	35	42
Sheffield W	42	9	7	5	31	14	6	4	11	17	34	41
Bury	42	10	8	3	29	13	5	2	14	16	36	40
Leicester C	42	10	8	3	26	11	2	8	11	13	35	40
Hull C	42	7	10	4	24	18	3	10	8	19	35	40
Leeds U	42	11	5	5	30	14	3	5	13	10	31	38
Wolves	42	11	4	6	34	24	5	2	14	15	42	38
Barnsley	42	9	10	2	31	17	1	6	14	17	33	36
Port Vale	42	7	6	8	28	19	4	8	9	15	30	36
Nottingham F	42	9	6	6	37	26	3	6	12	11	29	36
Rotherham Co	42	8	9	4	23	21	4	3	14	14	32	36
Stoke	42	9	5	7	26	16	3	6	12	20	40	35
Coventry C	42	8	6	7	24	25	4	5	12	15	45	35
Stockport Co	42	8	6	7	30	24	1	6	14	12	51	30

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal P	42	15	4	2	45	17	9	7	5	25	17	59
Southampton	42	14	5	2	46	10	5	11	5	18	18	54
QPR	42	14	4	3	38	11	8	5	8	23	21	53
Swindon T	42	14	5	2	51	17	7	5	9	22	32	52
Swansea T	42	9	10	2	32	19	9	5	7	24	26	51
Watford	42	14	4	3	40	15	6	4	11	19	29	48
Millwall	42	11	5	5	25	8	7	6	8	17	22	47
Merthyr T	42	13	5	3	46	20	2	10	9	14	29	45
Luton T	42	14	6	1	51	15	2	6	13	10	41	44
Bristol R	42	15	3	3	51	22	3	4	14	17	35	43
Plymouth A	42	10	7	4	25	13	1	14	6	10	21	43
Portsmouth	42	10	8	3	28	14	2	7	12	18	34	39
Grimsby T	42	12	5	4	32	16	3	4	14	17	43	39
Northampton T	42	11	4	6	32	23	4	4	13	27	52	38
Newport Co	42	8	5	8	20	23	6	4	11	23	41	37
Norwich C	42	9	10	2	31	14	1	6	14	13	39	36
Southend U	42	13	2	6	32	20	1	6	14	12	41	36
Brighton & HA	42	11	6	4	28	20	3	2	16	14	41	36
Exeter C	42	9	7	5	27	15	1	8	12	12	39	35
Reading	42	8	4	9	26	22	4	3	14	16	37	31
Brentford	42	7	9	5	27	23	2	3	16	15	44	30
Gillingham	42	6	9	6	19	24	2	3	16	15	50	28

Scotland Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	42	35	6	1	91	24	76
Celtic	42	30	6	6	86	35	66
Hearts	42	20	10	12	74	49	50
Dundee	42	19	11	12	54	48	49
Motherwell	42	19	10	13	75	51	48
Partick Thistle	42	17	12	13	53	39	46
Clyde	42	21	3	18	63	62	45
Third Lanark	42	19	6	17	74	61	44
Morton	42	15	14	13	66	58	44
Airdrie	42	17	9	16	71	64	43
Aberdeen	42	14	14	14	53	54	42
Kilmarnock	42	17	8	17	62	68	42
Hibernian	42	16	9	17	58	57	41
Ayr Utd	42	14	12	16	62	69	40
Hamilton A	42	14	12	16	44	57	40
Raith Rovers	42	16	5	21	54	58	37
Albion rovers	42	11	12	19	57	68	34
Falkirk	42	11	12	19	54	72	34
Queens Park	42	11	11	20	45	80	33
Clydebank	42	7	14	21	47	72	28
Dumbarton	42	10	4	28	41	89	24
St Mirren	42	7	4	31	43	92	18

UK STORIES

'See you in my office,' Chelsea owner said

By MICKY BROCK

Congratulations to Kilmarnock on winning the Scottish FA Cup, although you have to feel sorry for Alan McNair of the Falkirk 'Bairns' Supporters Club.

We had Alan on our radio show before he went over to Scotland for the final and it was plain to see that he was very excited by the prospect of actually watching the lads play at the stadium.

"No matter what happens," he said, "I've waited many years for this moment, I'm not going to miss it."

So with an understanding girlfriend, off went Alan, home for the final he so desperately yearned for. Bet he wishes he hadn't bothered now!

Seriously though, to all the Reps of the various supporters clubs, be they glamorous or lesser known, keep up the great work guys and all the best for the coming season, even if it is two months away.

☛On our trip to the UK this year, 'Scoop' Jones and I had the privilege of meeting one of the most controversial characters in the English game, Ken Bates.

Mr Bates is the chairman/owner of Chelsea Football Club and has had his share of criticism over the years for his revolutionary and somewhat frightening views on supporter control.

However, he is a Chelsea man through and through and if it hadn't been for his great efforts through the troublesome times, Chelsea would probably now be a statistic in a book like Accrington Stanley.

'Scoop' and I left Australia on a Friday evening because this got us into London on Saturday morning, leaving us enough time to hit a game.

☛After clearing customs at Heathrow, it was straight to my aunt's place in Kennington, and off to Stamford Bridge in time for the game.

We arrived early and sought out our press passes.

Chatting to the security men in the tunnel, not realising this was not allowed, Dennis Wise came through so I asked, "Playing today Dennis?" to which he looked up with that cheeky grin of his and said, "Yeah, makes a change eh!" before disappearing into the dressing room.

Inside the press room was a colour TV and I kid you not, there on the screen was the Socceroos winning under Terry Venables!

Unheard of in England almost, Australia soccer players on the telly, whatever next?

Slowly but surely the press room started to fill up and in came Brian Glanville, who immediately recognised 'Scoop' from his previous year's visit, and the subject turned to, yes, you guessed it...football!

This chat continued through the first half in which we were treated to an Asanovic 30 yard free-kick that Hitchcock couldn't handle and a lovely neat little goal by Dennis Wise just before half time.

This wouldn't have been significant in itself maybe but when he ran over to Vialli, and raised his shirt to show the legend. Never mind Gianluca, we still love you.

It came as no surprise when 'Wisey' didn't re-appear for the second-half!

☛During the half-time break, it was then the first of our encounters with Ron Bates took place.

He wandered into the press room and stood looking around. Ron Bates rarely visits, he doesn't really like them all that much, but in seconds, the hubbub that surrounds all press areas, had vanished. Silence descended in deathly tones and all eyes focused on the great man.

He was searching out a victim. He was no doubt looking for someone in particular, someone who was about to receive an 'ear bashing' of epic proportions. Was it for spreading rumours again? Perhaps the scribe of a spurious article maybe? Whoever it was, everyone knew this man was the boss, everyone secretly gulped, everyone prayed it wasn't them for the chop.

For reasons I won't go into, Mr Bates remembered something we did a few years ago and upon seeing our request for a press pass, told his girls to agree to them. Of course we didn't know that at the time so Jonesy, being slightly more awake than I after the flight, stupidly went towards him, leaving me in his wake

Like a fool I went to his rescue and heard, "Hello Mr Bates, I'm Stuart Jones", to which Ken replied: "Never mind, you'll get over it" and turning to me he said: "You'll be the other Aussie then?". I thought it safer to nod and say: "Yes. That's right."

It was about this time we both felt the earth should open up and swallow us. Ken Bates , in front of everyone, said, "Right! I'll leave your names with the girls. I want to see you in my office after the game."

Even though the second half was exceptionally entertaining, always at the back of the mind the thought, "I want to see you in my office after the game".

To cut a long story short, we trudged off towards the offices.

Led up to Mr Bates' office by, we had come to terms with our inevitable fate. It started, "Typical Aussies, always late" and we thought, 'well, here it comes'.

It wasn't to be.

Ken introduced his good lady wife, the Events Director - Mike Beaufoy and several other Chelsea dignitaries before leading us into his place of work, the office!

I can only describe it as a real eye opener and as we knelt down on the floor and looked over the plans for the new Chelsea village, Ken turned to Mike and said, "I've got to go. Take the lads anywhere they want to go. Show them whatever they want to see, including the accounts if they like, and if they want any interviews, arrange it for them". With that, he turned on his heel and with a wave and a "Goodbye", left arm-in-arm with his wife.

During our brief time with Mr Bates, he proved himself to be a witty, extremely personable man. I'd heard all the stories about him, read the articles and seen the cartoons. As far as I'm concerned, he is a top bloke, proud to have spent s few moments with him, enjoyed his company.

Don't believe everything you read about the man,.but then again.

☛This Wednesday night will see the second battle in the Nintendo Superstars of Soccer series played out at Parramatta Stadium.

the first match at Olympic Park in Melbourne, was played out in atrocious conditions but resulted in a 2-2 draw.

Each of the two teams, Australia Green and Australia Gold, played a different style of football so that Terry Venables could get a look at who, and which, was the more adaptable.

The crowd was disappointing to say the least but a far larger one is expected in Sydney.

Kick-off is at 7:30pm and the Youth Grand Final is being played at 5:00pm, so if you have the opportunity, get along and watch the cream of Australian soccer talent display their wares and attempt to earn a place in the World Cup squad for the qualifiers against the Solomon Islands and Tahiti later this month.

☛Finally, it has been a little known fact that there hasn't been just one Aston Villa player in Australia recently, but three! Mark Bosnich has been joined by Dwight Yorke and Ugo Ehiogu.

For those lucky enough to have found out, the three lads were at a Rebel Sports store in North Sydney last Saturday morning.

Dwight Yorke: The Villa striker is currently in Australia.

Gianluca Vialli: Dennis Wise's gesture was a pure cockney reaction.

England Win In Poland

England moved a giant step closer to next year's World Cup finals in France when it defeated its old rivals Poland 2-0 in a tough group two qualifer on Saturday.

A fifth minute goal from Alan Shearer and a second in the closing seconds from Teddy Sheringham mean that England cannot finish lower than second in the group which either they or Italy will win. At the same time, the result eliminated Poland.

While much of Europe has been basking in sweltering heat, Poland has been seized by an icy, wintry grip for the past few days and the match was played in freezing, rainy weather.

But England forgot about the chill after only five minutes when Shearer, the world's most expensive striker, scored a goal of true world class quality.

A four-man move from deep inside England's half was started by Gareth Southgate and continued by Robert Lee and Paul Ince, who found Shearer with a long through ball. Shearer, in space, latched on to it, outpaced the defence and curved home his right-footed drive inside the far post.

Poland struggled to recover from that, and could make no real impression on the match even when England playmaker Paul Gascoigne went off with a gashed thigh after 17 minutes.

The Poles did not have a shot on target until the 30th minute but the closest they came to scoring was when Southgate cleared away a goal-bound shot from Jacek Dembinski after 42 minutes.

In the second half England battled to hold its lead against a Polish attack which never made any real impact against a defence in which Southgate, Sol Campbell and Gary Neville played superbly.

And after Poland lost playmaker Piotr Nowak midway through the second half, its cause was lost and England gave the scoreline some respectability with Sheringham's last minute goal.

Teddy Sheringham: Completed the scoring for England in Chorzow against Poland.

News in Brief

. . . by BOB BROOKS

Regular readers would be aware that a young man from South Africa, called Sean Dundee, has become a German citizen and it is inevitable he will play for his adopted country.

Well Dundee was born in Durban on the eastern coast of his native land. He played his early Soccer in the so called 'Amateur League'. Prior to the country rid itself of the appalling apartheid policies of separate development, the Durban Amateur League was confined to white only players.

Recently a young bloke from South Africa was holidaying in Oz, who coincidentally is a friend of Dundee. He bought ABSW, liked what he saw and gave us a call.

It turns out that Jason Ball was born in England, was taken as a five year old to Durban but in his teenage years turned to Leicester City as his team to support in England.

Over a couple of beers in the Rocks area of Sydney recently, we discussed the World Game.

These types of meetings, simply reinforce the fact that through Ball, Dundee, Brooks and their like, we are all involved in the Real Football.

☆ ☆ ☆

Received a call from Mrs Veronica Wall of Ballarat in Victoria. The Post Office were slack in delivering her husband, Tom's, copy of ABSW to their retirement home. We discussed it and assured Mrs Wall that we had despatched the edition on Tuesday.

This was mentioned to our Sub-Editor, Aidan Ormond. Turns out that Aidan played with the Wall's son, Kevin, at Frankston City in the VSF Premier League during the eighties.

Small world, isn't it?

☆ ☆ ☆

Learn from personal contacts that Perth Glory's Vas Kalogeracos has indeed received an offer to play with PAOK in Salonica, Greece. However he has received many offers and is considering his options.

Kalogeracos has already played in Europe with Birmingham City. All right England if you don't regard the British Isles as part of Europe.

☆ ☆ ☆

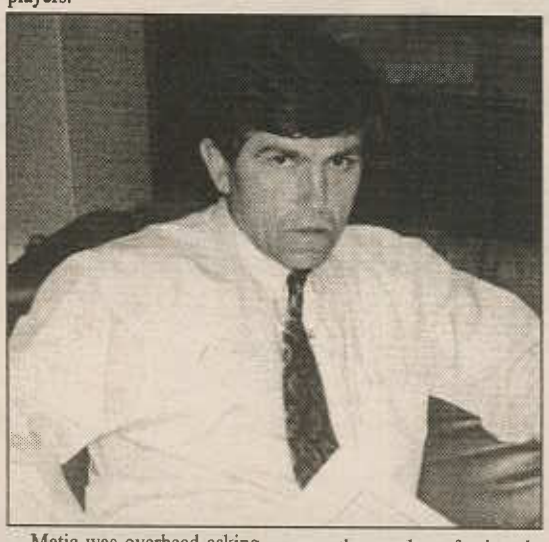
Wembley Stadium was supposed to have been rebuilt with money from the national lottery in England.

There has now been a change of government in Britain. Blair's new administration is apparently considering its options on the whole question of the number one stadium.

It could still end up being built in the Midlands not too far from the National Exhibition Centre, to the east of Birmingham.

☆ ☆ ☆

The very day that Marconi announced the appointment of the astute coach and businessman, Zoran Matic, he had meetings with some of the players.



Matic was overhead asking an unknown player to justify his $45,000 a year salary. Seems like one of the first jobs that the former Collingwood and Adelaide City coach did, was to dig all the players' contracts and subject them to close examination.

☆ ☆ ☆

It's amazing how the weeks fly by when work days are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday and Monday.

Over one year has elapsed since the last change of Editor. In fact the edition of May 20, 1997 was the 52nd with Bob Brooks in the chair.

Stimulating and challenging are good words to describe the job.

A constant puzzle is what coloured photographs should we use, on the front and back and in the middle. As you would have noticed these pages contain a greater emphasis on Australian players, coaches and personalities. This is only possible because we occasionally contract photographers to carry out assignments for us.

However it must also be acknowledged, in a formal way, the number of privately taken pictures that come in from clubs, schools, Bill Turner, parents and many other sources. Thank you for keeping the supply flowing, your generous support is greatly appreciated.

☆ ☆ ☆

As a lady from Queensland, a lifelong rugby league devotee noted, "Wasn't the win by the Strikers just great, League is finished in Queensland."

Providing we in the game can do the 'right thing' then the time has never been better for Soccer to step up to the podium and move forward to take a leading part in Australian Sport.

☆ ☆ ☆

A report came in from Parramatta Eagles about a farcical situation in one of their recent NSW Super League games. It was at Henson Park, two minutes from the offices of ABSW.

The pitch was very wet so the U/18 and U/21 games were called off. On inspecting the goals, the Assistant Referee discovered lumps of wood had been hammered in to support the posts. The ends of the blocks were sticking out.

A wood saw had to be found to take them off to ground level before the game could kick off.

Thank you council groundperson (s) for a very good job!

☆ ☆ ☆

Keiran Barry from Sydney wrote an article printed in 'Living Well' and sent out members of the MBF health fund organisation.

Under the heading of 'Team Sport' he said 'Netball, basketball and any of the football codes, including Soccer, are effective exercise options to improve etc.'

Readers of ABSW probably consider Soccer as THE football code.

Further on under 'Injury Risk' the learned Mr Barry states 'Footballers and Soccer players also experience frequent knee injuries, hamstring tears and, of course, numerous contact injuries.'

Personal experience says that in Soccer there are rarely any so called 'contact injuries'.

Makes you wonder!

☆ ☆ ☆

Players continue to leave these shores. Aarau a small Swiss club have signed Ross Aloisi from West Adelaide.

The Aloisi brothers are now in adjoining countries as John is with Cremonese in Italy.

Robbie Enes is off to the South Coast of England with Portsmouth.

Another player on his way to 'Pompey' is Hamilton Thorp, the big, bustling attacking defender. This further depletes the ranks at West Adelaide.

Maybe the suggestion, made in ABSW, that Portsmouth become a club of Aussies in the English competitions, is not far off the mark!

☆ ☆ ☆

Contrary to last week's piece in 'News in Brief' on Paul Agostino we have had further information.

The 22 year old is more than competent in German, as that was the languaged used during his three years with Young Boys of Berne, in Switzerland.

During his recently completed season with Bristol City he scored 15 goals in 42 first team appearances.

He is looking forward to a few weeks break in Australia to rest a minor muscle injury. In early July he reports for pre-season training with 1860 Munich.

In the Bundesliga he will come up against the newly crowned European Champions, Borussia Dortmund.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Australian Soccer Press Association, is holding a meeting on Wednesday June 4 (tomorrow). the meeting is at the ABC building, first floor, in Ultimo starting at 11am.

Ted Simmons and trevor Thompson are the convenors. The aim of the get together is to re-form the NSW branch of ASPA.

F. A. CUP ON WORLD TOUR FOR WORTHY CHARITY

By BOB BROOKS

The original FA Cup won by Chelsea last month at Wembley Stadium, London was recently in Sydney in the care of Ian Callaghan.

Callaghan the former Liverpool star of over 800 games at the top level is on a World tour of Hope with FA Cup. The tour is organised to raise funds for the Roy Castle Cause for Hope foundation.

The foundation is dedicated to the elimination of lung cancer. In July 1994 Roy lost his personal battle with lung cancer, and died. He had never smoked in his life.

All funds raised are being used as a major contribution towards research into lung cancer.

The World Tour takes in 12 key cities, on five continents and started on the Sunday after the FA Cup Final.

Meanwhile Chelsea have a replica of the actual Cup in their display cabinet.

Callaghan played in four FA Cup Finals, so certainly has warm, friendly feelings towards the coveted trophy.

While the Cup was in sydney, Planet Hollywood the theme restaurant dedicated to the movie world, was celebrating one year since it opened. The Cup was on display for a whole day at the George Street, Sydney complex.

.Phillipos Phillipoli a youngster wanted to see the FA Cup. In our photograph Phillipos is seen with Ian Callaghan and the FA Cup. The visit was made possible by the 'Make a Wish' Foundation.

After Sydney the Cup, and its guardians, flew on to the Middle East.

The FA Cup competition has been battled for since 1872. It is the oldest knockout competition in the world. Much folklore surrounds 'The Cup' as the competition is called in England.

It is the opportunity for the small club (quaintly called 'minnows') to knock off the 'Big Fish'. This was seen in 1996/7 when Chesterfield reached the Semis, only one step from the coveted Final. In 1973, little Sunderland went one better and reached the final, actually going on to beat the mighty Leeds Utd 1-0 in one of the biggest upsets in the Cup's history.

The expression 'Up for t'Cup' is a favourite of folks from the Midlands and North of England. It is used when they are travelling to London for the FA Cup Final.

Preliminary rounds get going as early as September. So called non-league clubs play the early games and the few that survive play in the First round proper (rather like the qualifiying rounds at Wimbledon). These winners hope for home games against the better 2nd and 3rd Division teams who therefore draw larger crowds than the usual, adding vital revenue to their precarious finances.

Now, if a non leaguer such as Hendesford should survive until the third round, then they would hope to meet a Premier League or First Division team as this is the point where these high profile clubs enter the competition.

The draw for the third round and higher is a very public affair. It is carried live on television and radio with significant media interest in this football mad nation.

Each team going into the draw is allocated a number in alphabetical sequence. The numbers are put in a barrel, shaken up and the draw begins.

"Number 43" is the call for the first number. "Wallsall" is the FA secretary's response. An eager silence awaits the next number ... "4", "versus Arsenal", comes the announcement.

Thus the game is Walsall at home to Arsenal. A great draw card for Walsall which will almost certainly fill the ground and substantially boost their revenue as a result.

If a non-league team is drawn out first with a Premier League club as their opponent, then usually the fixture is reversed and played at the bigger ground, however, the non-leaguers are entitled to their 'home' percentage of the gate.

For the FA Cup Final, even if Wembley Stadium had a 150,000 capacity, it would be full. Retail business, all over England, is always down on Cup Final day as people sit down about midday to view the preliminaries (which features, among others things, the finalists' supporters playing against each other!). The viewers don't shift for five hours as the denoument to this world famous competition unfolds with the excitement, thrills and glamour that have come to be associated with this great event.

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